

Chapter 3 - Outdoor Recreation

Providers, Programs and Partnerships

Outdoor Recreation Providers

In response to an ever-growing and ever-changing public demand, a variety of outdoor recreation programs have developed in Florida through the years. Although both private and public efforts have served this demand, most of the formal outdoor recreation programs have been instituted by various levels of government. Both state and federal agencies have been extensively involved, and practically every county and municipality in Florida conducts some outdoor recreation programs of its own. Many of these diverse programs have evolved more out of expediency than by careful design. As a result, there has been much duplication and overlap. Fortunately, however, most of the legitimate outdoor recreation needs in the state have been met in some fashion by concerted efforts to coordinate these governmental programs.

Florida's outdoor recreation providers can be classified into five categories: federal government, state government, county government, municipal government and private sector providers. Both federal and state agencies are concerned with areas and facilities designed to accommodate the demand for resource-based outdoor recreation. The federal government provides various types of outdoor recreation areas of national significance, while the state provides areas and facilities of statewide or regional significance. Historically, the state and federal governments have not become involved in the direct provision of user-oriented resources and facilities. This has been dictated largely by funding constraints and by the early recognition that the federal and state governments had to assume the primary responsibility for locating, acquiring

and providing public access to the large, resource-based recreation areas and facilities.

Most state-level funding for recreation has gone to the acquisition and development of state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, water management lands and historic sites, as well as state-assisted resource-based parks within cities and counties. This policy will remain substantially unchanged in the foreseeable future so long as high quality natural and historical resources can be acquired and developed in those areas of the state where an identified recreational need for them exists. At the same time, however, it is clearly recognized that user-oriented recreational needs must also be met, and that financial assistance programs for acquisition and development of recreation areas and facilities for user-oriented recreation are vital to meeting those needs.

County and municipal governments are the primary suppliers of the public facilities needed for user-oriented recreation, although some also provide areas and facilities to meet part of the need for resource-based outdoor recreation. As urbanization and population growth continue in Florida, local governments will face increasing pressure to assume a greater role in providing both user-oriented and resource-based types of recreation.

Private recreation providers are a vital component of the state's outdoor recreation supply. Commercial providers meet a significant portion of the overall demand for both resource-based and user-oriented outdoor recreation in Florida, particularly tourist-generated demand. For example, commercial providers supply

more than 90 percent of the campsites in the state and meet a considerable portion of the overall demand for camping facilities by residents and visitors.

Non-profit organizations include private and quasi-public organizations such as the scouts, church groups and conservation organizations. These groups provide land and facilities primarily for the use of the members, but in some cases for the public at large.

Clubs and other organizations not certified as non-profit by the Florida Department of State (DOS), such as hunt clubs, country clubs, yacht clubs and others, manage lands and facilities that are primarily available only to organization members and their guests. In doing so, they can relieve some of the pressure that is often placed on overcrowded public facilities. In addition, private industry lands (timber companies and other industries with extensive land holdings whose lands or portions thereof are open to the public) are used for resource-based recreation, although some forms of user-oriented facilities are also available. In recent years, however, many such areas have been withdrawn from use by the general public, particularly for hunting, and are now available only to leaseholders or others who have access to the lands.

Outdoor Recreation Programs

This section describes the specific programs of the various categories of public and private recreation suppliers discussed in the previous section. Although the public agencies discussed in this section may have other responsibilities, only those related to outdoor recreation opportunities are ad-

dressed. Further information concerning the programs described in this chapter should be obtained directly from the agency.

Federal Programs

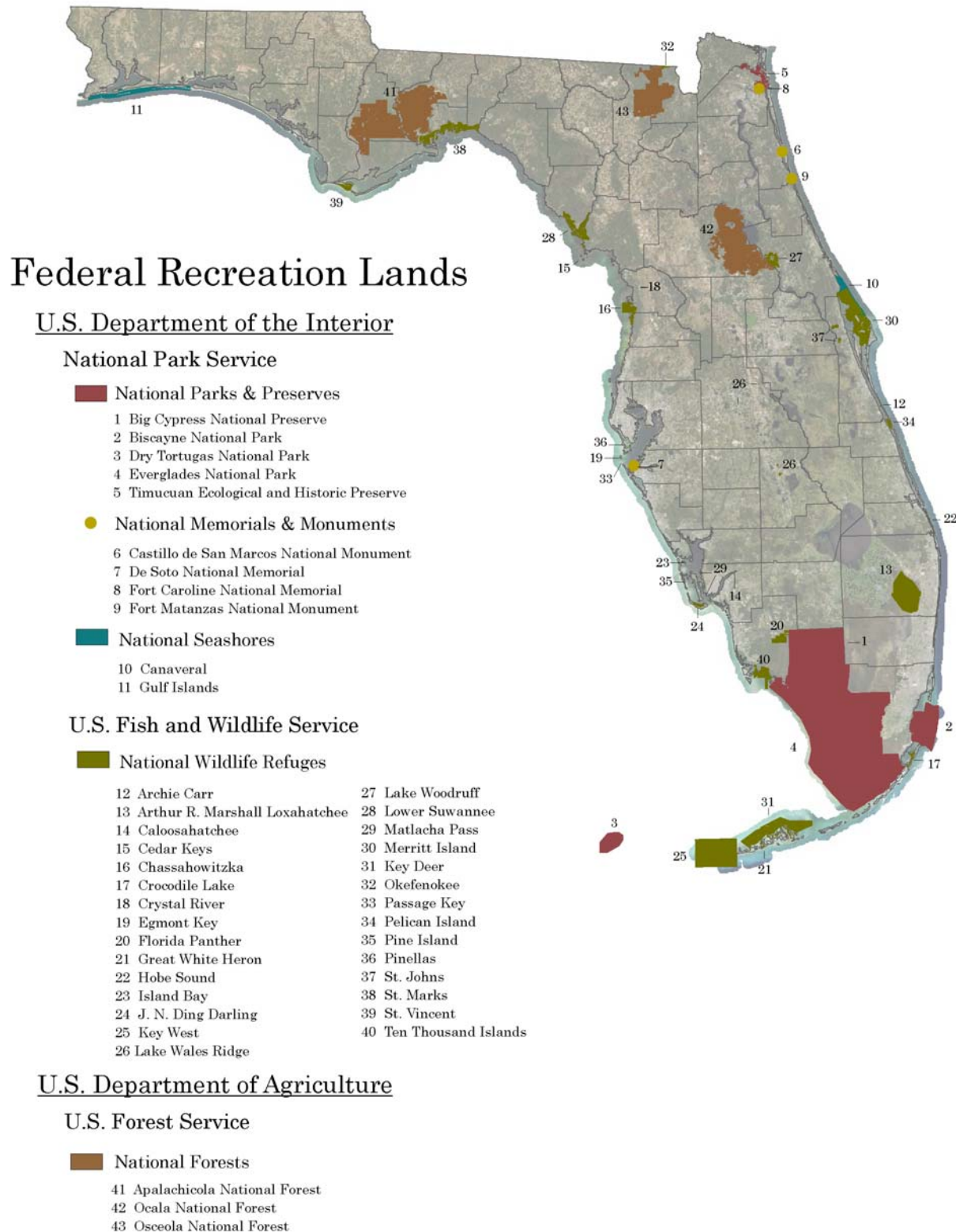
The federal government has responsibility for developing recreational facilities and programs that provide public opportunities that are not, or cannot, be made available by state or local government. Federal roles in outdoor recreation are broad in scope and run the gamut from dredging waterways, lock and levee construction and maintenance, endangered species protection and habitat preservation, and providing crucial funds for many programs through federal grants. Federal agencies coordinate and cooperate on resource protection efforts such as protecting wilderness areas, designating wild and scenic rivers, and implementing trail connectivity projects that require inter-jurisdictional management. The core mission of most of the federal agencies, with the exception of the National Park Service, is not recreation per se. However, by the nature of their settings - the national forests, wildlife refuges, military installations, dams and locks, waterways and estuaries of the state - these vast tracts of federal land are key locations for outdoor recreation and play a vital role in the state's outdoor recreation supply.

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) has the specific mission to conserve the scenery and natural resources of national parks and provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Besides active land management for outdoor recreation, the federal agencies administer financial and technical

Figure 3.1



Source: National Atlas of the United States

assistance programs to aid state and local agencies and private citizens.

In Florida, NPS's mission includes:

- Managing 11 areas comprising more than 2.6 million acres of submerged and upland areas set aside for their natural or historic interest (see Figure 3.1).
- Administering the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program, which provided more than \$22 million to local governments between 2001 and 2007 to fund 134 park acquisition and development projects. These funds are awarded to meet recreation needs identified through an open selection process described in Appendix E.

The National Park Service



Organic Act August 25, 1916:

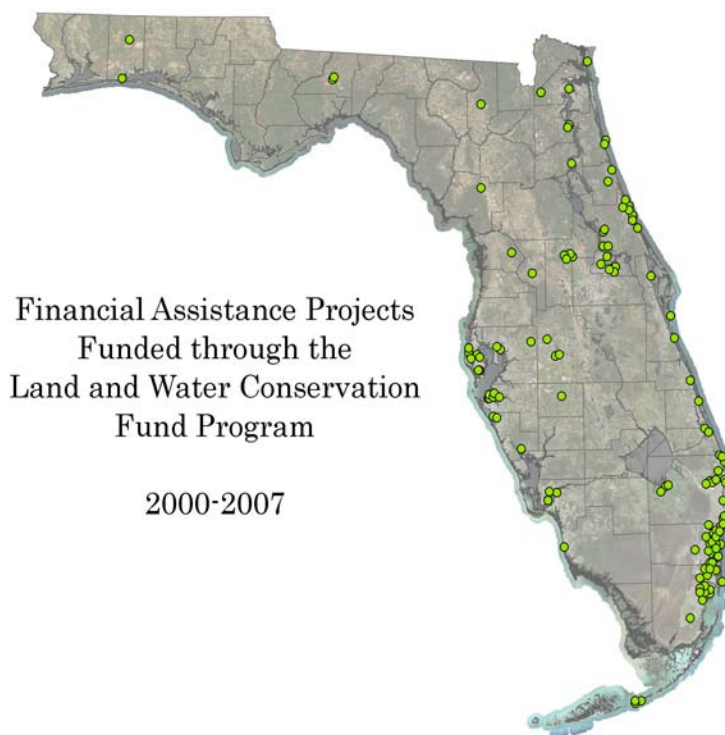
"...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

- Maintaining the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 United States Code 470).
- Designating significant properties or



Biscayne National Park, Monroe County

Figure 3.2



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

landmarks of national historical or archaeological interest, as defined in the Historic Sites Act of 1936 (16 United States Code 461), including districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects of state and regional significance.

- Partnering with other federal agencies as well as state and local government programs designed to achieve national goals such as clean air, protection of wilderness areas, clean water and access to waterways and coastal areas under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Water Resources Development Act.
- Providing matching grants through the Historic Preservation Grants-in-Aid Program, an expansion of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, to government, private groups and individuals for historic preservation

surveys, planning activities and community education. These programs are administered in Florida by the Division of Historic Resources (DHR) within DOS.

- Administering the Federal Lands-to-Parks Program, which enables states and local governments to establish park and recreation areas on federal properties which are no longer needed for military or civilian uses by conveying lands for that purpose.
- Coordinating the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program by providing planning assistance to communities for projects that are designed to protect rivers, trails and greenways on lands outside of the federal domain.

National Trail System

The National Trail System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543), authorized creation of a national trail system comprised of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails. While National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails may only be designated by congressional act, National Recreation Trails may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance, upon application from the trail managing agency or organization. When designated, these trails are recognized as part of the National Trail System.

In order to be certified as a National Scenic Trail, a trail must contain outstanding recreation opportunities and encompass more than 100 miles of a continuous, primarily non-motorized trail. Eight National Scenic Trails have been designated across the nation. A total of 1,400 miles of hiking trails across Florida were designated as the Florida National Scenic Trail in 1983. The Florida Na-

tional Scenic Trail is further discussed under the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on page 3-9.

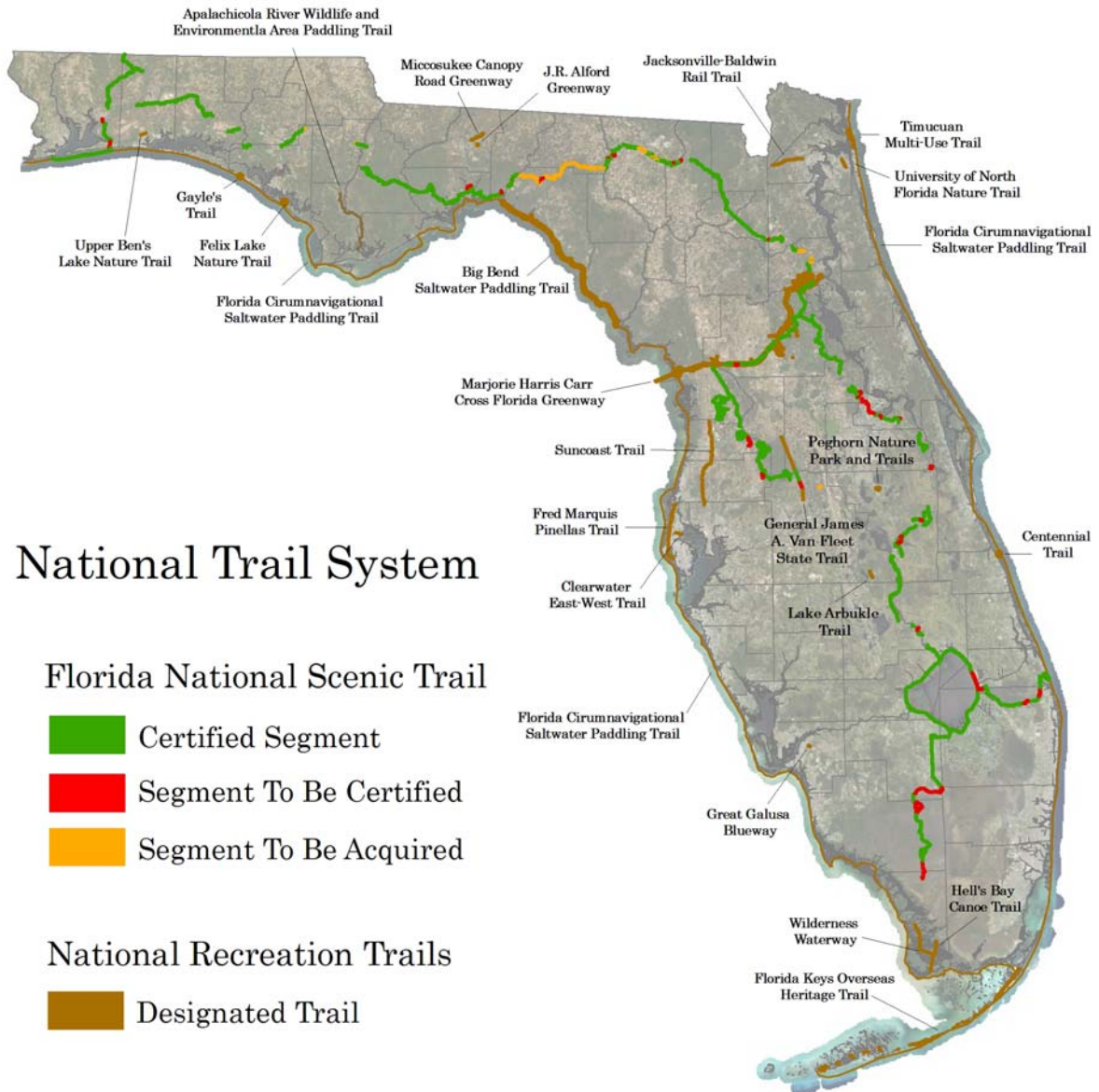
National Historic Trails commemorate historic and prehistoric routes of travel that are significant to the nation. Throughout the United States, there are 12 National Historic Trails made up of 26,430 miles of designated trails. These trails provide user experiences through a series of interpretive facilities along trails and signed automobile routes. There are currently no National Historic Trails in Florida.

National Recreation Trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a variety of urban, rural and remote settings. A total of 26 trails including more than 500 miles of land-based trails and 1,700 miles of paddling trails have been designated in Florida (see Figure 3.3). These trails are managed by federal, state, county and municipal agencies and run the spectrum from urban jogging and bicycling in St. Petersburg to wilderness canoeing in the Everglades.



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Figure 3.3



Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Florida Department of Environmental Protection

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, is to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. This mission is accomplished by enforcing federal wildlife laws, protecting endangered species, managing migratory birds, restoring nationally significant fisheries and conserving and restoring wildlife habitat including wetlands. USFWS also distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies across the nation. The activities of USFWS in Florida include:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Mission: "Provide the Federal leadership to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people."

- Management of 28 national wildlife refuges, comprising nearly one million acres of land and water (see Figure 3.1). Most of the refuges are limited-purpose outdoor recreation areas that provide bird watching, wildlife observation, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and at some refuges, public hunting. In addition, the Service manages a national fish hatchery in Welaka and maintains law enforcement facilities at six locations.
- Administration of federal aid programs, including Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act and Wallop-Breaux

Act), Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) and Wildlife Partnership Act (conservation of non-game species). These grant programs are managed in Florida by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Grants to Florida under the Clean Vessel Act (clean boating programs) are managed by the Clean Marina Program in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of External Affairs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) provides leadership in the management, protection and use of the nation's forests and rangelands. The agency is dedicated to multiple-use management of these lands for sustained yields of renewable resources such as wood, water, forage, wildlife and recreation to meet the diverse needs of people. The responsibility of USFS in the field of outdoor recreation is to fully develop the recreational potential of national forests and protect landscape aesthetics. USFS also cooperates with other federal, state and local agencies in planning and developing recreational resources on other federal, state, local and private lands.

U.S. Forest Service



Mission: "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

In Florida, USFS administers three national forests: the Apalachicola, the Ocala and the

Osceola (see Figure 3.1). Together these areas contain approximately 1.2 million acres of land and water, thus making a major contribution to the state's recreational resources. They contain some of Florida's most pristine lands including extensive woodlands, springs and streams. Within the national forests, USFS manages numerous designated public recreation sites. Some of the sites are managed exclusively for dispersed recreational purposes, such as hiking, hunting, fishing and primitive camping.

Florida National Scenic Trail

USFS is the federal administering agency for the Florida National Scenic Trail. The Flor-

ida National Scenic Trail, designated by Congress in 1983, extends from the Big Cypress National Preserve north to the Gulf Islands National Seashore in the Florida Panhandle. Along the way, the Florida trail passes through lands managed by more than two dozen public land managing agencies in more than 40 separate management units. USFS acts as a partner with state land management agencies and private landowners to obtain through-trail access for the project. The non-profit Florida Trail Association, Inc., through its volunteer membership of hiker-volunteers, provides nearly 70,000 hours of manpower each year to build and maintain the trail (see Figure 3.3).



Florida National Scenic Trail

U.S. Department of Defense

The U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD) includes the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Each provides outdoor recreation opportunities in Florida. USDOD has 17 military installations in Florida that make lands available for recreational purposes. Although public outdoor recreation is not a primary function of USDOD, its contributions in this regard are nevertheless important to Florida's overall outdoor recreation program. Generally, all military installations offer some degree of outdoor recreation programs for military personnel, dependents and their guests. However, access to their resources for recreational use by the general public is usually limited.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Along with its primary responsibilities for navigation, flood control, environmental restoration and beach erosion control, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has made considerable efforts to provide recreational facilities. It is the policy of USACE to plan for and provide outdoor recreation resources and facilities at all of its water resources projects.

USACE's general authority for recreational development stems from the Flood Control Act of 1944, which was later expanded by the Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (16 United States Code 460). The latter act directs that each project give full consideration to opportunities for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement, and it establishes outdoor recreation and preservation of wildlife and fish as a full project purpose.

U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers



"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Management Mission is to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences, to serve the needs of present and future generations."

Florida is divided into two USACE districts. The Mobile District manages recreation sites at the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam on Lake Seminole, a 37,500-acre impoundment in southern Georgia and Jackson County, Florida. Excellent opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating are available.

The Jacksonville District manages Lake Okeechobee and the Okeechobee Waterway in southern Florida. Not only does this managed area provide extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, but its series of locks and canals provides a cross-Florida waterway that is popular among pleasure boaters and connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico via the lake and the Caloosahatchee River.

In partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other federal, state, local and tribal agencies, the USACE is planning the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), one of the world's largest wetland restoration projects. The project covers 16 counties and over 18,000 square miles. The Plan was approved by Congress in the Water Re-

sources Development Act of 2000, which was reauthorized by Congress in November 2007. It includes more than 60 elements and will require more than 30 years to construct at an estimated cost of \$10.9 billion. The CERP Master Recreation Plan will provide guidance to assist recreation planning within CERP project fee title lands, and will help provide recreation opportunities that are compatible with the restoration purposes of the project.

U.S. Department of Transportation

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) within the U.S. Department of Transportation provides grants to state and local governments for various recreational trail projects, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and scenic highways. The Recreational Trails Pro-



gram provides funds to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized trail uses. The Office of Greenways and Trails in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection administers the financial assistance program in coordination with the FHWA.

The Transportation Enhancement Program provides funding for improvements that are not provided as part of the features routinely provided in transportation projects. Enhancements such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, preservation and conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails, landscaping and other scenic beautification projects have been provided in Florida through this program. Since 2001, a total of \$315 million in enhancement funds have been apportioned to Florida through the program.



Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway, Brevard County

The National Scenic Byways Program recognizes roads having outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational and archaeological qualities by designating them as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads, America's Byways or State Scenic Byways. Grants and technical assistance are provided to the states to implement projects on designated byways, and to plan, design and develop a state scenic byway program. The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), in cooperation with FHWA, is the administering agency for the Florida Scenic Highway Program.

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a scientific and technical organization that works to preserve and enhance the nation's coastal resources and ecosystems. Its mission is to provide products, services and information that promote safe navigation, support coastal communities, sustain marine ecosystems and mitigate coastal hazards. The National Ocean Service provides assistance to Florida in observing, understanding and managing coastal and marine resources. Florida is an active partner in several programs that directly affect resource protection in Florida's coastal areas.

National Estuarine Research Reserves

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of estuarine areas across the nation established for long-term stewardship, research and education. Each reserve has developed an organized eco-

logical research program containing extensive teacher training, education, research and monitoring. Findings are communicated to coastal managers and other decision makers, as well as local citizens. Florida contains three of these reserves: Apalachicola, Guana Tolomato Matanzas and Rookery Bay.

National Marine Sanctuaries

The National Marine Sanctuary Program designates and manages areas of the marine environment with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archaeological, educational or aesthetic qualities. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, one of 13 in the National Marine Sanctuaries System, covers 3,668 square miles and encompasses part of the most extensive living coral reef system in the nation.

National Coastal Zone Management Program

The National Coastal Zone Management Program fosters an effective partnership among federal, state and local governments. By leveraging federal and state matching funds, the program strengthens the capabilities of each partner to address coastal issues while giving states the flexibility to design a program that accommodates their unique coastal challenges.

The Florida Coastal Management program is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Intergovernmental Programs. The state program serves as the lead coordinator with eight other state agencies and five water management districts in enforcing 23 statutes and



Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Johns County

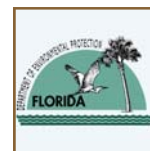
implementing several coastal zone management programs in cooperation with NOAA. The program works to protect coastal resources, build and maintain vital communities, enhance coastal access, protect remarkable places and revitalize working waterfronts.

In 2002, the National Coastal Zone program initiated the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The program is aimed at protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values and that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses. The Florida Coastal Management Program manages this grant program, which provides up to \$3 million for each eligible project.

State Programs

The State of Florida's responsibilities for providing public recreation are fulfilled through a variety of facilities and programs, each unique to the mission of nine separate entities.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is charged with the protection, administration, management, supervision, development and conservation of Florida's natural and cultural resources. This broad mandate is accomplished by direct acquisition and management of public outdoor recreation and conservation areas, as well as through major initiatives and agency priorities which contribute to a healthy ecosystem. DEP's

functions include protecting and conserving Florida's water supply and its quality, protecting springs and oceans, restoring America's Everglades, acquiring, conserving and managing conservation and recreation lands, enforcing environmental laws and regulations, investing in cleaner sources of energy and protecting the health of Florida's communities.

Division of Recreation and Parks



Mission: "To provide resource-based recreation while preserving, interpreting and restoring natural and cultural resources."

Division of Recreation and Parks

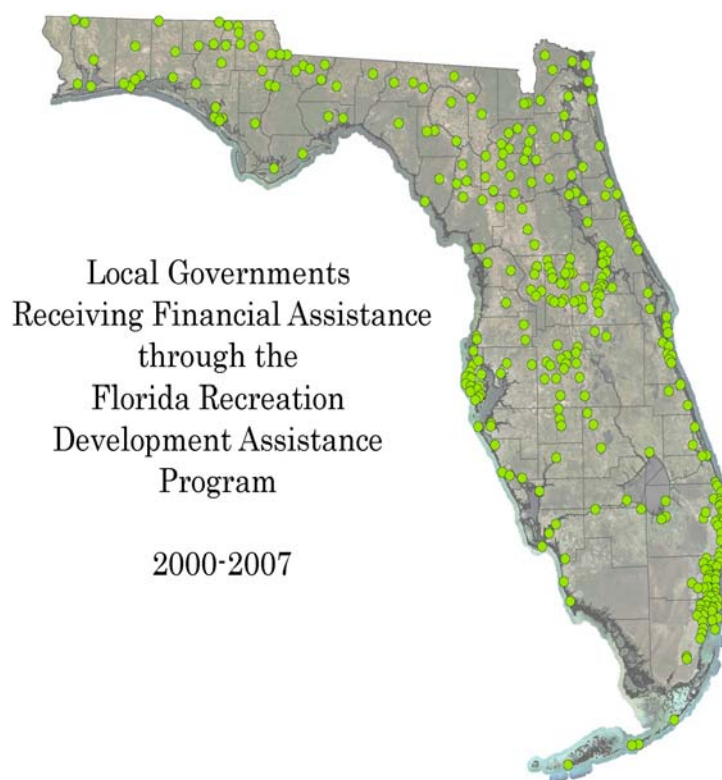
DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) develops and operates Florida's state park system for the benefit and enjoyment of Florida's citizens and visitors. The state park system contains many of the best remaining examples of Florida's original domain and cultural heritage. Units in the state park system are classified for management according to the natural and cultural resources they contain and the desired balance between resource preservation and public use (see Unit Classification System in Appendix B).

As of July 2007, the system consisted of 161 areas, comprising almost 700,000 acres of land and water. It contained 51 state parks, 35 state recreation areas, 29 special feature sites, 26 preserves, six museums, four ornamental gardens, two reserves, two fishing piers, one wildlife park and five sites that are not designated (see Figure 3.5 and Table 3.1). Between 2000 and 2007, nearly 184,000 acres of land and water were added to the state park system under the classifications identified above.



Anastasia State Park, St. Johns County

Figure 3.4



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Besides providing hundreds of thousands of acres for public recreational use, the state park system is the largest steward of public historic properties in the state. More than 83 parks contain significant historic resources, including almost 300 historic structures and more than 1,500 archaeological sites. These resources provide a broad array of unique interpretive and educational opportunities for residents and visitors. In addition to administering Florida's state park system, DRP also administers the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program provides financial assistance to eligible local governments, including the 67 county general governments and 412 incorporated municipalities of Florida. Pursu-

ant to Section 375.075, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 62D-5, Part V, Florida Administrative Code, DEP recommends to the Legislature each year that an appropriation of not less than five percent of the total amount credited annually to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund be authorized for the program. Since 2001, the program has also received two percent of the bond proceeds made available through the *Florida Forever* program. Funding from the program is awarded on a competitive basis that considers the total project costs and the economic status of the applicants among other evaluation criteria.

Since 2000, 1,397 projects totaling \$189.2 million have been awarded under the program for the acquisition, development and renovation of recreation projects throughout

Figure 3.5



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Table 3.1

Florida's State Parks

1 Addison Blockhouse	81 John Pennekamp Coral Reef
2 Alafia River	82 John U. Lloyd Beach
3 Alfred B. Maclay	83 Jonathan Dickinson
4 Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek	84 Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation
5 Amelia Island	85 Kissimmee Prairie
6 Anastasia	86 Koreshan
7 Ancloste Key	87 Lafayette Blue Springs
8 Atlantic Ridge	88 Lake Griffin
9 Avalon	89 Lake Jackson Mounds
10 Bahia Honda	90 Lake June-In-Winter Scrub
11 Bald Point	91 Lake Kissimmee
12 Beker	92 Lake Louisa
13 Big Lagoon	93 Lake Manatee
14 Big Shoals	94 Lake Talquin
15 Big Talbot Island	95 Letchworth-Love Mounds
16 Bill Baggs Cape Florida	96 Lignumvitae Key
17 Blackwater River	97 Little Manatee River
18 Blue Spring	98 Little Talbot Island
19 Bulow Creek	99 Long Key
20 Bulow Plantation Ruins	100 Lovers Key
21 Caladesi Island	101 Lower Wekiva River
22 Camp Helen	102 Madira Bickel Mound
23 Cayo Costa	103 Madison Blue Spring
24 Cedar Key	104 Manatee Springs
25 Cedar Key Scrub	105 Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
26 Charlotte Harbor	106 Mike Roess Gold Head Branch
27 Cockroach Bay	107 Mound Key
28 Collier-Seminole	108 Myakka River
29 Colt Creek	109 Natural Bridge Battlefield
30 Constitution Convention	110 Navarre Beach
31 Crystal River	111 North Peninsula
32 Crystal River Preserve	113 Ochlockonee River
33 Curry Hammock	114 Okeechobee Battlefield
34 Dade Battlefield	112 O'Leno
35 Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock	115 Oleta River
36 De Leon Springs	116 Olustee Battlefield
37 Deer Lake	117 Orman House
38 Delnor-Wiggins Pass	118 Oscar Scherer
39 DeSoto Site	119 Paynes Creek
40 Devil's Millhopper	120 Paynes Prairie
41 Don Pedro Island	121 Peacock Springs
42 Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island	122 Perdido Key
43 Dudley Farm	123 Ponce de Leon Springs
44 Dunns Creek	124 Pumpkin Hill Creek
45 Econfinia River	125 Rainbow Springs
46 Eden Gardens	126 Ravine
47 Edward Ball Wakulla Springs	127 River Rise
48 Egmont Key	128 Rock Springs Run
49 Estero Bay	129 San Felasco Hammock
50 Fakahatchee Strand	130 San Marcos de Apalache
51 Falling Waters	131 San Pedro Underwater
52 Fanning Springs	132 Savannas
53 Faver-Dykes	133 Seabranch
54 Fernandina Plaza	134 Sebastian Inlet
55 Florida Caverns	135 Silver River
56 Forest Capital	136 Skyway Fishing Pier
57 Fort Clinch	137 St. Andrews
58 Fort Cooper	138 St. Lucie Inlet
59 Fort George Island	139 St. Sebastian River
60 Fort Mose	140 Stephen Foster
61 Fort Pierce Inlet	141 Stump Pass Beach
62 Fort Zachary Taylor	142 Suwannee River
63 Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou	143 T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula
64 Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach	144 Tarklin Bayou
65 Gasparilla Island	145 Terra Ceia
66 George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier	146 The Barnacle
67 Grayton Beach	147 Three Rivers
68 Haw Creek	148 Tomoka
69 Henderson Beach	149 Topsail Hill
70 Highlands Hammock	150 Torreya
71 Hillsborough River	151 Troy Spring
72 Homosassa Springs Wildlife	152 St Marks River
73 Honeymoon Island	153 Waccasassa Bay
74 Hontoon Island	154 Washington Oaks
75 Hugh Taylor Birch	155 Wekiwa Springs
76 Ichetucknee Springs	156 Werner-Boyce Salt Springs
77 Indian Key	157 Windley Key Fossil Reef
78 Indian River Lagoon	158 Ybor City
79 John D. MacArthur Beach	159 Yellow Bluff Fort
80 John Gorrie	160 Yellow River Marsh
	161 Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail, Collier County

the state (Figure 3.4). These projects ranged from small, local land acquisition projects to projects of regional significance encompassing hundreds of acres. Facility development ranged from single-purpose facilities providing such amenities as beach access, picnicking and ball fields, to large, multi-activity parks.

Office of Greenways and Trails

The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) provides statewide leadership and coordination to establish, expand and promote greenways and recreational trails in Florida. Established in 1993 to manage the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, OGT's programs have expanded to include management and administration of the Florida Greenways and Trails System through designation of lands and waterways, planning assistance and public information. OGT

Office of Greenways and Trails



Mission: "Working to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails for recreation, conservation and alternative transportation purposes."

also administers the Recreational Trails Program and provides funding for land acquisition and trail development. OGT's activities are governed by the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Chapter 260, Florida Statutes).

OGT administers a program for formally designating public and private lands and waterways as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System. The designation program

Figure 3.6



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

helps to ensure an inclusive and interconnected system of greenways and trails by encouraging partnerships in conservation, development and management of system components, providing recognition for system components and raising public awareness of the conservation and recreation benefits of the system. As part of this responsibility, “visioning maps” are prepared through collaboration with local governments and trails advocates to display preferred routes for future trails and greenways, known as “opportunity corridors.” The maps also define the statewide vision for a connected system of trails and determine eligibility for funding to purchase land. Visioning maps that include multi-use trails, hiking trails and paddling trails are contained in Appendix I.

In addition to administering the Florida Greenways and Trails System, OGT provides direct management of key system components. These include the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and eight multi-use, long-distance state trails. In total, OGT manages 1,305 miles of trails and 62,462 acres.

OGT administers a land acquisition program that is funded through annual allocations from the *Florida Forever* program. Acquisition proposals originate with local entities and are evaluated by OGT. No local matching funds are required. Title to properties acquired through this program is retained by the State of Florida, and the properties are subleased to local managing entities for trail development, operation and maintenance.

Figure 3.7



Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

OGT also administers the Recreational Trails Program, a federally funded, competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to approved local entities. The program provides reimbursement for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and related facilities, both non-motorized and motorized.

Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas

The Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) is the principal manager of submerged lands and their associated marine and aquatic resources in Florida. The Florida Aquatic Preserve Act of 1975 (Chapter 258, Part II, Florida Statutes), authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to maintain state owned submerged lands with exceptional biological, aesthetic and scientific value as aquatic preserves. These areas offer prime opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, paddling and other water-related types of recreation. CAMA manages Florida's 41 aquatic preserves, including 37 saltwater and four freshwater systems, encompassing more than 1.8 million acres of sovereign submerged lands of the state (see Figure 3.8). In cooperation with NOAA, CAMA manages approximately 430,000 acres of

Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas



Mission: "To protect Florida's coastal and aquatic resources."

submerged land and coastal uplands in three national estuarine research reserves: Apalachicola, Guana Tolomato Matanzas and Rookery Bay. In addition, CAMA partners with NOAA and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to manage the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary contains 3,668 square miles of submerged lands around the 126-mile long Florida Keys, and encompasses the most extensive living coral reef system in the nation.

Through the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative and the Coral Reef Conservation Program, CAMA supports Florida's membership in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the U.S. All Islands Committee. These programs coordinate research and monitoring, develop management strategies, and promote partnerships to protect the coral reefs, hard bottom communities and associated reef resources of southeast Florida.



Rookery Bay Aquatic Preserve, Collier County

Figure 3.8



Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Florida Marine Research Institute

Division of State Lands

Since 1972, Florida has invested approximately \$6.8 billion through successive land acquisition programs to conserve approximately 3.7 million acres of land for environmental preservation, conservation and outdoor recreation purposes. The Division of State Lands (DSL) administers these land acquisition programs on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and DEP. DSL also provides administrative oversight for approximately 11 million acres of state owned lands, including 700 freshwater springs, 4,510 islands of ten acres or more and 7,000 lakes.

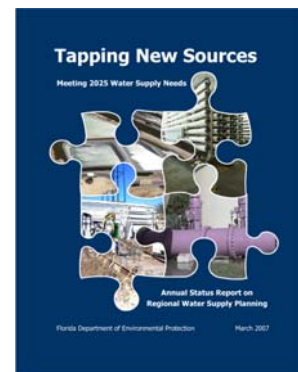
DSL administers the *Florida Forever* program, which was created by the 1999 Florida Legislature as the successor program to the *Florida Preservation 2000* program established in 1990. Under *Florida Forever*, \$300 million in funds have been available each year to support a variety of land acquisition purposes, including the preservation of environmental, conservation, and water management lands and to provide grants to local governments. Since *Florida Forever's* inception, 601,000 acres of land and water have been acquired, reflecting an investment of more than \$2.6 billion.

In 2008, *Florida Forever* was extended for another decade by the Florida Legislature. As part of the program's re-authorization, several important changes were made to the original program that was established in 1999. Two new land acquisition programs were created. The Rural and Family Lands Protection Act was established in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the acquisition of agricultural lands through perpetual easements and other less-than-fee techniques. The Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program was created in the Department of Community Affairs,

Florida Communities Trust, to preserve and restore working waterfronts and provide public access to Florida's waters. In addition to these new programs, greater emphasis was placed on providing public access to conservation lands, increasing accountability of public land management, protecting listed plant and animal species, and addressing climate change.

Division of Water Resource Management

The Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) is responsible for protecting the quality of Florida's drinking water as well as its rivers, lakes and wetlands, and for reclaiming lands after they have been mined for phosphate and other minerals. Its programs establish the technical basis for setting the state's surface water and ground water quality standards, which are critical to maintaining the viability of water resources for public outdoor recreational use. By 2025, Floridians are expected to use about two billion gallons more fresh water each day. The Water Protection and Sustainability Program, created in 2005, has the task of increasing available water supplies, including alternative water supplies, and promoting efficient water use and conservation to meet existing and future water supply needs. DEP's annual report, *Tapping New Sources: Meeting 2025 Water Supply Needs*, describes the highlights and accomplishments of this new program.



Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems

Coastal protection and restoration are vital in preserving one of Florida's most valuable natural resources - its 825 miles of sandy shoreline fronting the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida. As of 2007, more than 192 miles of beach have been restored as a result of the Beach Erosion Control Program, working in concert with other agencies and local governments to protect, preserve and restore coastal sandy beaches. Financial assistance in an amount up to 50 percent of project costs is available to county and municipal governments, community development districts and special taxing districts for shore protection and preservation. In addition to beach restoration and renourishment, funds are also available for construction of dune walkovers and parking facilities for public access. Through 2006, more than \$582 million has been appropriated by the Florida Legislature for beach erosion control activities and hurricane damage recovery.

Bureau of Mine Reclamation

DWRM's Mine Reclamation Program regulates surface mine reclamation through a review and monitoring process. Originally established in the late 1980s to regulate, restore and reclaim phosphate-mined land, the program has evolved into a habitat and wildlife management program. Today, the program is responsible for managing 23 state-owned parcels along the Peace and Alafia Rivers and in the Green Swamp to implement long-term management activities needed for protection of these greenways, wildlife corridors and riparian buffers.

Division of Law Enforcement

Florida Park Police

DEP's Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for the protection of visitors to state parks, greenways and trails, and aquatic preserves. DLE also plays an important role in investigating environmental crimes of all types and is a leading agency in bringing cases to judicial resolution.

Division of Law Enforcement



Mission: "Dedicated to excellence in public and environmental protection."

Office of Sustainable Initiatives

Clean Marina Program

In 1992, Congress enacted the Clean Vessel Act, which established a federal grant program administered by USFWS to reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges. Funding comes from the Sport Fishing Restoration Program account made up of revenues from excise taxes on fishing equipment, boats and motorboat fuels. The Clean Marina Program is a cooperative effort by the Office of Sustainable Initiatives, the Marine Industries Association of Florida, Florida Sea Grant Program, International Marina Institute, U.S. Coast Guard and public and private marinas throughout the state. Clean boater programs educate recreational boaters, marinas, boat yards and marine retailers about pollution control and enhance recreational boating through brochures and workshops that emphasize protecting aquatic resources.

Water Management Districts

The Office of Water Policy in DEP addresses statewide water management issues in coordination with Florida's water management districts and other agencies. Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, created five water management districts for the purpose of managing and conserving the state's water resources. The five districts were organized around major drainage basins in the state: Northwest Florida, Suwannee River, St. Johns River, Southwest Florida and South Florida. Land acquisition is one of the districts' primary tools for carrying out their mission of flood control, water storage and management, water resource development, and preservation of wetlands, streams and lakes.

The districts play a key role in providing public outdoor recreation opportunities on lands under their ownership. The water management districts acquire land through funding from *Florida Forever* and other sources. Under *Florida Forever*, 30 percent of the program's annual funding of \$300 million is allocated for this purpose. This amount is divided among the five districts according to a population-based formula established in Section 373.59(8), Florida Statutes. The districts are required to make their lands



Water Management Districts

Section 373.1391(1)(a), Florida Statutes:

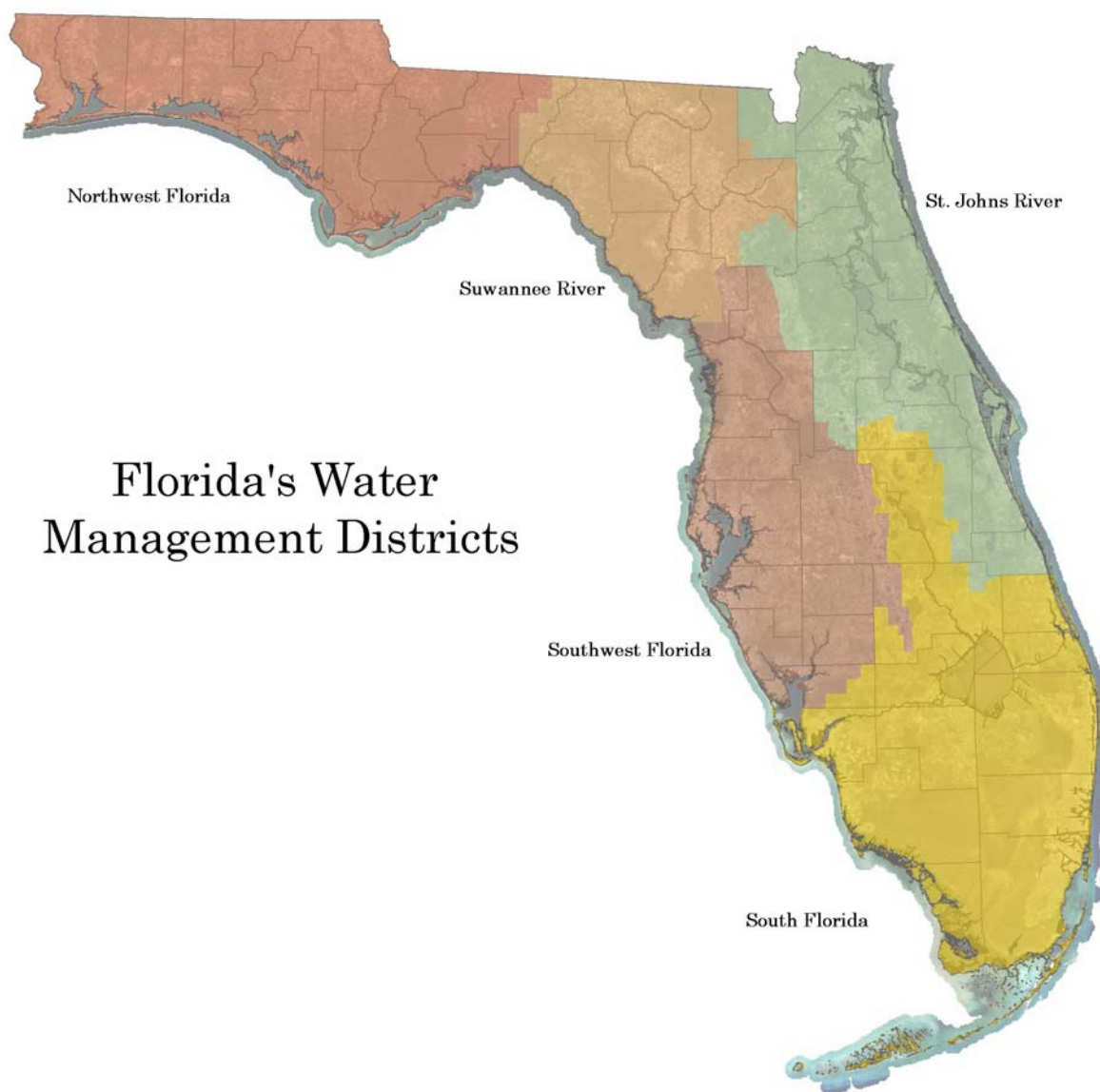
"Whenever practicable, such lands shall be open to the general public for recreational uses. General public recreational purposes shall include, but not be limited to, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, swimming, camping, hiking, canoeing, boating, diving, birding, sailing, jogging, and other related outdoor activities to the maximum extent possible considering the environmental sensitivity and suitability of those lands..."

available for compatible public outdoor recreation uses whenever practicable. Numerous public access sites and recreational facilities have been developed on district owned lands throughout the state in cooperation with other state agencies, the federal government, counties, municipalities and the private sector. Examples of the recreational



Suwannee River

Figure 3.9



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

opportunities provided on district lands include hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, bicycling, canoeing, primitive camping and wildlife viewing.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) was established by a 1998 amendment to the Florida Constitution that consolidated the responsibility for conserving the state's freshwater and saltwater aquatic life and wildlife into a single agency. FWCC operates under a mission of managing fish and wildlife for the long-term well-being and benefit of the people.

FWCC is composed of seven members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, for staggered terms of five years. FWCC exercises regulatory and executive powers of the State over marine life and is charged with exercising all the non-judicial powers of the state with respect to wild animals, freshwater aquatic life and marine life. Central to FWCC's role in outdoor recreation is the management of hunting and fishing areas. FWCC receives

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Mission: "Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people."

federal funds for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of Florida's sport fishing resources, including boating access facilities, from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act and Wallop-Breaux Act) program. It also receives funds for the protection of endangered species from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) Trust Fund. These programs are administered at the federal level by USFWS, which provide grants and technical assistance to the states.

Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

This unit is responsible for the Wildlife Management Area system, which includes 154



Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail



Group of Manatees

tracts totaling approximately 5.8 million acres in public and private ownership (see Figure 3.11). These tracts include wildlife management areas and wildlife environmental areas. Wildlife management areas are established for the management of wildlife or freshwater fish on which hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities may be permitted. Wildlife environmental areas are endangered or environmentally unique habitats with a primary management objective of protection and conservation of the resources.

Florida has one of the nation's largest systems of state-managed wildlife lands. FWCC is the lead manager of 40 areas that cover 1.4 million acres and is a co-manager of 114 areas that cover an additional 4.4 million acres. Often, FWCC's cooperating agreements are short-term arrangements, particularly on private lands. As a result, the amount of hunting land available to the public on these areas fluctuates from year to year. As Florida's population continues to grow and spread into undeveloped areas of the state, land for hunting—a sport that re-

quires large, well-managed acreages for a healthy game population—is becoming more difficult to provide.

Mitigation parks are areas ranging in size from 350 to 2,000 acres that have been selected by FWCC for purchase with funds collected through mitigation to protect and enhance important wildlife habitat. Examples of outdoor recreational activities available at selected mitigation parks include hiking, biking, wildlife watching, canoeing and kayaking.

In 2001, Congress created the State Wildlife Grants Program and required each state to develop a comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy in order to continue receiving federal wildlife grants. FWCC created Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative in 2004 to serve the agency's long-term commitment to conserve native wildlife. The initiative crafts a statewide vision for the future of wildlife in Florida, in coordination with other state, federal and local agencies, universities, conservation organizations, recreation groups,

businesses and the public. Species range from those which are common throughout the southeastern United States to some which are virtually unknown elsewhere in the country, such as the Florida panther, the Florida manatee and the Florida scrub jay. The initiative supports various forms of outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, bird watching and nature study.

Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management

The Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management (DFFM) provides expertise on freshwater fish populations, angler use and other aspects of freshwater fisheries to ensure high quality fishing in Florida lakes, rivers and streams. DFFM provides the public with information on freshwater fisheries management issues, fishing opportunities, aquatic education and outreach, and other matters aimed at promoting responsible lifelong participation in sport fishing. Additionally, freshwater fish production facilities provide a dependable supply of the specific size, quantity and quality of freshwater fish to meet specific freshwater fisheries management objectives.

Division of Law Enforcement

FWCC's Division of Law Enforcement officers provide protection to residents and visitors who enjoy Florida's natural resources, and enforce resource protection and boating safety regulations in the state's woods and waters. The Boating, Waterways and Field Services (BWFS) section is responsible for educating boaters about boating safety, ensuring boat ramp and pier access, installing and maintaining waterway signage, and identifying derelict vessels.

BWFS section administers several grant programs, including the Florida Boating Improvement Program, the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program and the Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program. The Federal Aid to Sport Fishing Restoration Program (commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act and Wallop-Breaux Act) is a "user pays, user benefits" program that is aimed at improving sport fishing and boating opportunities. Federal funds are collected from taxes on fishing tackle, motor fuels and import duties on tackle and yachts. The money is returned to appropriate state agencies for research, management, education and facility development related to sport fish-



Hardee Lakes Park, Hardee County

Figure 3.10



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

ing. As a result of these programs, 200 grants around the state, totaling more than \$21 million, have been provided for constructing boat ramps and related access facilities (see Figure 3.10).

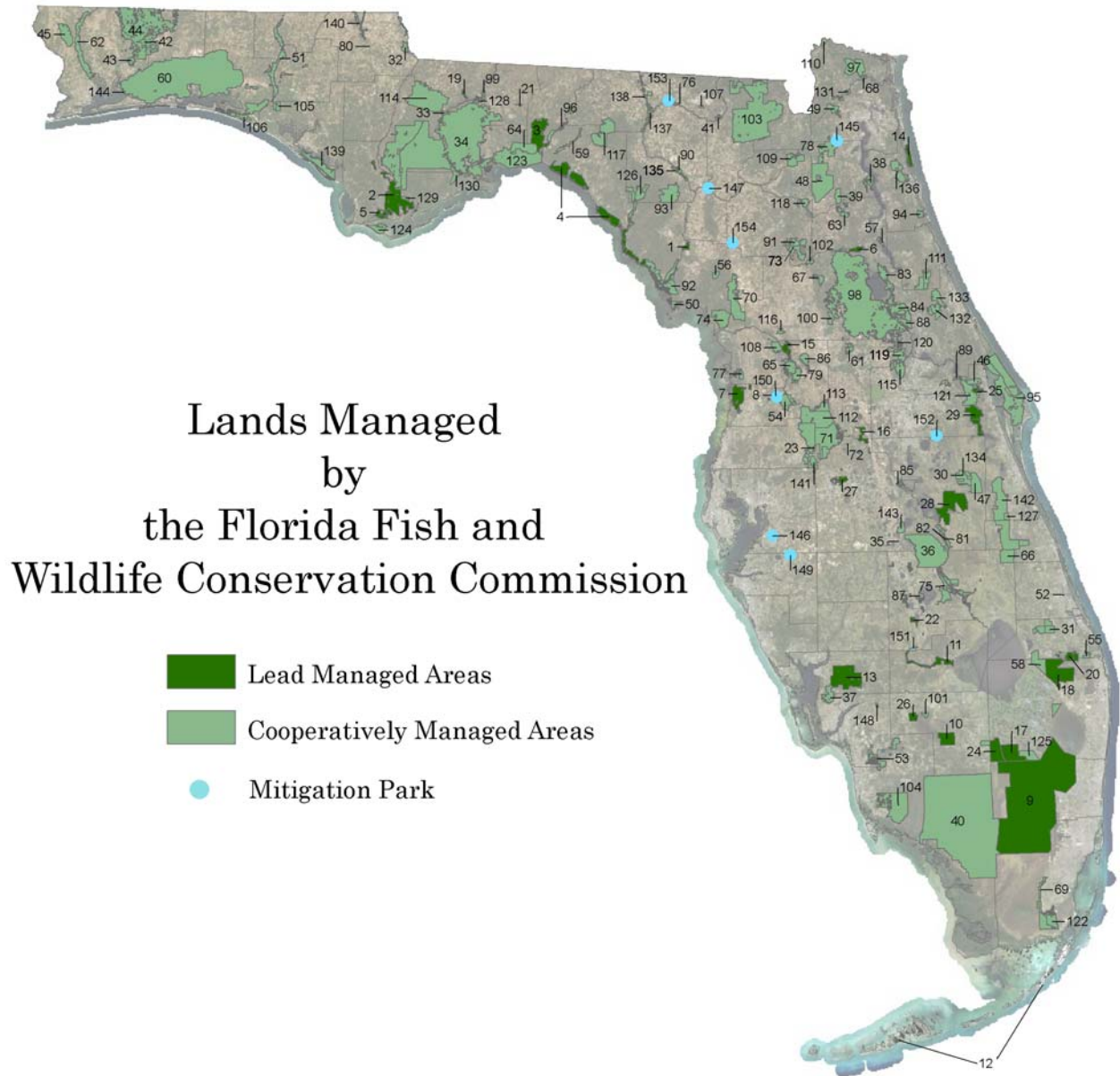
Office of Recreation Services

The Office of Recreation Services (ORS) provides opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in wildlife viewing-focused activities on wildlife management and other areas. Recreational improvements provided by ORS include user access facilities such as trails, interpretive facilities, observation structures, camping areas, boat ramps and facilities for recreational shooting. ORS manages the Great Florida Birding Trail in cooperation with state, regional and local governments and non-profit groups statewide and assists local communities in developing wildlife-viewing opportunities and promoting nature-based tourism.

The Great Florida Birding Trail is a collection of 445 sites throughout the state selected for their excellent bird watching or bird education opportunities. The 2,000-mile, self-guided highway trail is designed to conserve and enhance Florida's bird habitat by promoting bird watching activities, conservation education and economic opportunities. The trail combines special highway signs identifying designated sites with a map showcasing Florida's birding opportunities. When fully completed, the Trail will consist of a series of loops, each containing five to 10 sites that highlight natural communities and special ecosystems.

FWCC also manages the Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail, an open-water route that traverses the coastal forests, salt marshes and seagrass beds between the Ochlockonee River and Tarpon Springs. The 105-mile trail is managed as part of the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area.

Figure 3.11



Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Table 3.2

Lands Managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Lead Managed Areas

- 1 Andrews Wildlife Management Area
- 2 Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 3 Aucilla Wildlife Management Area
- 4 Big Bend Wildlife Management Area
- 5 Box-R Wildlife Management Area
- 6 Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- 7 Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area
- 8 Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 9 Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area
- 10 Dinner Island Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- 11 Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 12 Florida Keys Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 13 Fred C. Babcock-Cecil M. Webb Wildlife Management Area
- 14 Guana River Wildlife Management Area
- 15 Half Moon Wildlife Management Area
- 16 Hilochee Wildlife Management Area
- 17 Holey Land Wildlife Management Area
- 18 J. W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area
- 19 Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area
- 20 John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 21 L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 22 Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 23 Little Gator Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 24 Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area
- 25 Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area
- 26 Spirit of the Wild Wildlife Management Area
- 27 Tenoroc Fish Management Area
- 28 Three Lakes Wilder Management Area
- 29 Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area
- 30 Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area

Cooperatively Management Areas

- 31 Allapattah Flats Wildlife Management Area
- 32 Apalachee Wildlife Management Area
- 33 Apalachicola Bradwell Unit
- 34 Apalachicola Wildlife Management Area
- 35 Arbuckle Wildlife Management Area
- 36 Avon Park Wildlife Management Area
- 37 Babcock/Webb Yucca Pens Unit
- 38 Bayard Wildlife Management Area
- 39 Belmore Wildlife Management Area
- 40 Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area
- 41 Big Shoals Wildlife Management Area
- 42 Blackwater - Carr Unit
- 43 Blackwater Hutton Unit
- 44 Blackwater River Wildlife Management Area
- 45 Blue Water Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 46 Buck Lake Wildlife Management Area
- 47 Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 48 Camp Blanding Wildlife Management Area
- 49 Cary Wildlife Management Area
- 50 Cedar Key Scrub Wildlife Management Area
- 51 Choctawhatchee River Wildlife Management Area
- 52 Citrus Hammock Wildlife Management Area
- 53 Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 54 Croom Wildlife Management Area
- 55 Cypress Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 56 Devil's Hammock Wildlife Management Area
- 57 Dunns Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 58 Dupuis Wildlife Management Area
- 59 Econfinia Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 60 Eglin Air Force Base Wildlife Management Area
- 61 Emerald Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- 62 Escambia River Wildlife Management Area
- 63 Etoniah Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 64 Flint Rock Wildlife Management Area
- 65 Flying Eagle Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- 66 Fort Drum Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- 67 Fort McCoy Wildlife Management Area
- 68 Four Creeks Wildlife Management Area
- 69 Frog Pond Wildlife Management Area
- 70 Goethe Wildlife Management Area
- 71 Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area
- 72 Green Swamp/Chai Investments Company
- 73 Grove Park Wildlife Management Area
- 74 Gulf Hammock Wildlife Management Area
- 75 Hickory Hammock Wildlife Management Area
- 76 Holton Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 77 Homosassa Wildlife Management Area

Cooperatively Managed Areas (Continued)

- 78 Jennings Wildlife Management Area
- 79 Jumper Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 80 Judges Cave Wildlife Management Area
- 81 Kicco Wildlife Management Area
- 82 Kissimmee River Public Use Area
- 83 Lake George Wildlife Management Area
- 84 Lake George Dexter/Mary Farms Unit Wildlife Management Area
- 85 Lake Marion Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 86 Lake Panasoffkee Wildlife Management Area
- 87 Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 88 Lake Woodruff Wildlife Management Area
- 89 Little Big Econlockhatchee Wildlife Management Area
- 90 Little River Wildlife Management Area
- 91 Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area
- 92 Lower Suwannee Wildlife Management Area
- 93 Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area
- 94 Matanzas Wildlife Management Area
- 95 Merritt Island Wildlife Management Area
- 96 Middle Aucilla Wildlife Management Area
- 97 Nassau Wildlife Management Area
- 98 Ocala Wildlife Management Area
- 99 Ochlockonee Wildlife Management Area
- 100 Ocklawaha Prairie Wildlife Management Area
- 101 Okaloocoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area
- 102 Orange Creek Wildlife Management Area
- 103 Osceola Wildlife Management Area
- 104 Picayune Strand Wildlife Management Area
- 105 Pine Log Wildlife Management Area
- 106 Point Washington Wildlife Management Area
- 107 PotashCorp - White Springs Wildlife Management Area
- 108 Potts Wildlife Management Area
- 109 Raiford Wildlife Management Area
- 110 Ralph E. Simmons Wildlife Management Area
- 111 Relay Wildlife Management Area
- 112 Richloam Wildlife Management Area
- 113 Richloam Wildlife Management Area - Baird Unit
- 114 Robert Brent Wildlife Management Area
- 115 Rock Springs Run Wildlife Management Area
- 116 Ross Prairie Wildlife Management Area
- 117 San Pedro Bay Wildlife Management Area
- 118 Santa Fe Swamp Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 119 Seminole Forest Wildlife Management Area
- 120 Seminole Forest Wildlife Management Area- Lake Tracy Unit
- 121 Seminole Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- 122 Southern Glades Wildlife Management Area
- 123 St. Marks Wildlife Management Area
- 124 St. Vincent Island Wildlife Management Area
- 125 STA 1-5 Wildlife Management Area
- 126 Steinhatchee Wildlife Management Area
- 127 T. M. Goodwin Wildlife Management Area
- 128 Talquin Wildlife Management Area
- 129 Tate's Hell Wildlife Management Area
- 130 Tate's Hell Wildlife Management Area - Womack Creek Unit
- 131 Thomas Creek Wildlife Management Area - Kings Road Unit
- 132 Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area
- 133 Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area - Rima Ridge Unit
- 134 Triple N Ranch Wildlife Management Area
- 135 Troy Springs Wildlife Management Area
- 136 Twelve Mile Swamp Wildlife Management Area
- 137 Twin Rivers Wildlife Management Area
- 138 Twin Rivers Wildlife Management Area - Withlacoochee Unit
- 139 Tyndall Wildlife Management Area
- 140 Upper Chipola River Wildlife Management Area
- 141 Upper Hillsborough Wildlife Management Area
- 142 Upper St. Johns River Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- 143 Walk-In-The-Water Wildlife Management Area
- 144 Yellow River Wildlife Management Area

Mitigation Parks - Additional Lead Managed Areas

- 145 Branan Field Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 146 Bullfrog Creek Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 147 Fort White Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 148 Hickey Creek Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 149 Moody Branch Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 150 Perry Oldenburg Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 151 Platt Branch Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 152 Split Oak Forest Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 153 Suwannee Ridge Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area
- 154 Watermelon Pond Mitigation Park Wildlife and Environmental Area

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Division of Forestry

The Division of Forestry (DOF) is a major contributor to Florida's total outdoor recreation supply. The primary outdoor recreation objective is to maximize compatible recreational use of state forest lands. Florida's state forest system consists of 34 areas totaling more than 924,000 acres, most of which provide abundant opportunities for many popular outdoor recreation activities (see Figure 3.12). Resource-based recreation opportunities offered by DOF include camping, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, off-highway vehicle use, fishing, paddling and nature study. Hunting is allowed on most properties managed by DOF, and is administered in cooperation with FWCC as part of that agency's wildlife management program.

DOF is also responsible for administering the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Program established by the T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Recreation Act (Chapter 261, Florida Statutes) in 2002. The Act provides a set of guidelines for providing and maintaining state lands for off-highway motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle

Division of Forestry



Mission: "The mission of the Division of Forestry is to protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations."

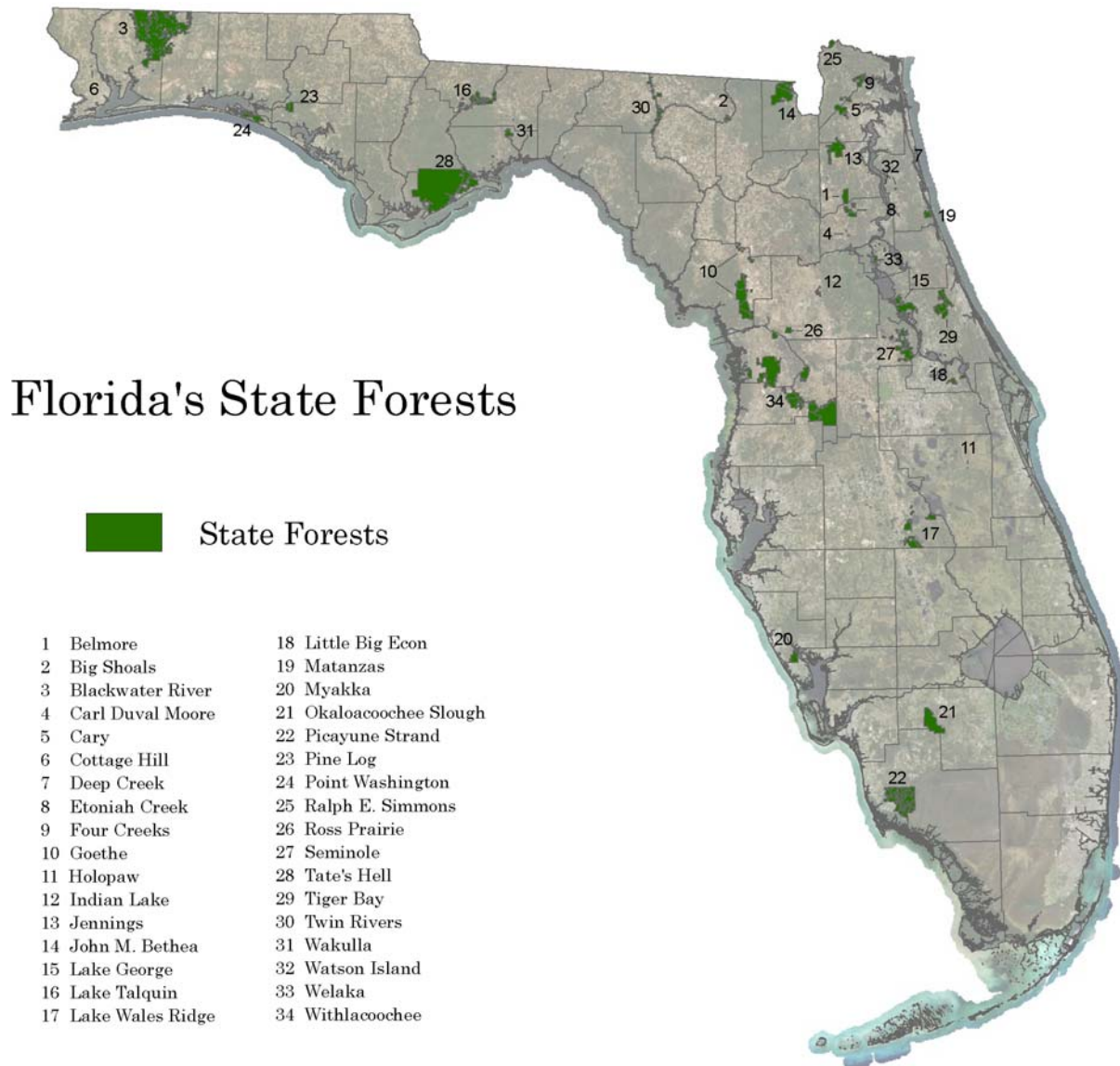
use, collectively referred to as off-highway vehicles. It also requires DOF to recommend appropriate locations for additional public access for off-highway vehicle recreational use, working in cooperation with the nine-member Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Advisory Committee. Since the law was enacted, two new areas have been designated for off-highway vehicle use, Tate's Hell State Forest in Franklin County and Mallory Swamp in Lafayette County (managed by Suwannee River Water Management District) and several new sites are currently being developed.

Besides directly providing resources and facilities for outdoor recreation, DOF assists private landowners in developing forest management plans that often include a rec-



Blackwater River State Forest, Santa Rosa County

Figure 3.12



Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

recreation component. At the landowner's request, DOF will assess the land's potential for hunting, fishing, wildlife management, water access facilities, camping and related activities. DOF may also assist landowners in designing facilities such as campgrounds, boat ramps and hiking trails to make the land available for recreational purposes.

Florida Department of State

Office of Cultural and Historical Programs



The Office of Cultural and Historical Programs (OCHP) is the state agency responsible for preserving and promoting the historical, archaeological, museum, arts and folk culture resources in Florida. Within OCHP, the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) is the primary agency for directing historic preservation. The director of DHR serves as the State Historic Preservation Officer providing a liaison with the national historic preservation programs conducted by NPS.

The Bureau of Historic Preservation conducts historic preservation programs aimed at identifying, evaluating, preserving and interpreting the historic and cultural resources of the state. The bureau contains four sections with important responsibilities for historic resource management.

The Compliance Review Section administers the Florida Master Site File and reviews federal or state undertakings that may affect historical or cultural resources. The Preservation Services Section oversees the Architectural Preservation Services Program, the Main Street Program, and the Grants-in-Aid Program. The Survey and Registration Section oversees the National Register/National

Historic Landmark Program. The Public Outreach Section directs the Publications, Historical Markers, and Florida Folklife Programs.

Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, directs DHR to cooperate with state and federal agencies, local government, private organizations and individuals to conduct a comprehensive statewide survey of historic resources and to develop a statewide historic preservation plan. The primary purpose of the state's historic preservation plan is to guide the implementation of sound planning procedures for the location, identification, and protection of the state's archaeological and historical resources.

Florida Department of Community Affairs

The Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) offers technical and financial assistance to local governments in a wide range of functional areas. As the state planning agency, DCA is charged with coordinating state-level review of local government comprehensive plans and comprehensive regional policy plans required by Chapters 163 and 186, Florida Statutes. DCA has also assisted local governments and regional agencies on resource management and protection matters through its involvement in resource planning and management committees established by the Governor in

Department of Community Affairs



Mission Statement: "We will meet the needs of Floridians by investing in communities and working with them to plan and manage growth."

Figure 3.13



Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

accordance with Chapter 380, Florida Statutes.

Florida Communities Trust

The Florida Communities Trust (FCT), established in 1989 to help local governments preserve parks, open space, beaches and natural areas, has created more livable communities throughout Florida. Matching and full grants for conservation and recreation land acquisition projects are provided to communities, as well as to non-profit environmental organizations, through an annual competitive application process. FCT receives 21 percent of annual proceeds from *Florida Forever*, totaling approximately \$63 million.

As of October 2007, more than 77,000 acres were acquired through the program. FCT has provided nearly \$667 million of the \$1.2 billion spent to acquire these lands, while local government partners have provided matching funds in excess of \$560 million (see Figure 3.13).

Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program

The Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program was originally established by DCA in 1997. In 2005, the program received statutory authorization to be administered in coordination with DEP and NOAA under Chapter 342, Florida Statutes. The program helps communities revitalize and promote interest in their waterfront districts by providing technical assistance, support, training and financial assistance. Waterfront revitalization

may target environmental resource protection, public access, retention of viable traditional waterfront economies and hazard mitigation. Since 1997, a total of 21 communities have received designation as Waterfronts Florida Partnership communities. In 2005, five new communities were designated for the 2005-2007 cycle: Bradenton Beach, Bagdad Village, Fort Walton Beach, Port St. Joe and Fernandina Beach.

Rural Land Stewardship Area Program

In 2001, the Legislature established the Rural Land Stewardship Area Program under Section 163.3177(11)(d), Florida Statutes, to recognize and further rural land sustainability. The program provides that counties may designate rural land stewardship areas on lands classified in the future land use element as being predominantly agricultural, rural, open or a substantively equivalent land use. Responding to the conversion of 2.8 million acres of farm land to non-agricultural uses between 1974 and 2002, the program is intended as a local, incentive-based process that uses innovative land use planning to protect agricultural and natural resources in rural Florida.

Florida Department of Transportation

In providing for the state's transportation needs, Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), under Chapter 334, Florida Statutes, gives consideration to the preservation and enhancement of the environment and the conservation of natural resources, including scenic, historic and recreational assets. Florida's highway system affords a vast number of scenic recreational opportunities, but perhaps its most significant contribution to outdoor recreation is providing access to Florida's recreation resources. DOT con-

Department of Transportation



Mission: "The Department will provide a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity and preserves the quality of our environment and communities."

structs and maintains rest areas for public use and provides opportunities for water-based recreation on causeways and bridges. Additionally, DOT administers the State Pedestrian and Bicycle Program, the Florida Scenic Highway Program and the Transportation Enhancement Program.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Program

DOT developed the State Pedestrian and Bicycle Program in Florida as a means of promoting alternative transportation modes and recreational bicycling in Florida. DOT develops initiatives and programs to improve the environment for safe, comfortable and convenient walking and bicycling trips and to improve the performance and interaction among motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. As part of this program, the state pedestrian and bicycle coordinator and district pedestrian and bicycle coordinators in each of DOT's seven field operations regions work with municipal pedestrian and bicycle coordinators to develop and update design, maintenance and operation guidelines for all state, municipal and local bicycle facilities.

Florida Scenic Highway Program

The Florida Scenic Highway Program is a grass-roots effort to showcase and heighten awareness of Florida's intrinsic resources -



Williams Park, Hillsborough County

cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic - which collectively enhance the overall traveling experience. Designated highways tell a story that is representative of Florida's past and present lifestyles. Participation in the program is voluntary and benefits the communities along the routes in matters such as resource enhancement and protection. Proposed projects are reviewed based on criteria established by FHWA. Each designated corridor is managed by a corridor management entity made up of interested citizens. As of July 2007, there were 15 designated scenic highways in Florida.

State University System of Florida

The State University System of Florida consists of 11 institutions that serve 293,000 students and contain almost 14,000 acres of land. Each university has an approved master plan that addresses the issue of outdoor recreation space. Recreational facilities maintained by each university provide opportunities for participation in a variety of athletic activities such as tennis, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer and football. Many state universities also operate resource-

based recreation areas detached from the main campus for use by students, alumni and in some instances, the general public. These areas provide opportunities for both active and passive outdoor recreation activities, such as golfing, swimming, canoeing, hiking, camping, nature study and picnicking.

Special Districts

Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, also known as the Uniform Special District Accountability Act of 1989, addresses the operation of special districts in Florida. Over 1,600 special districts exist statewide, providing infrastructure and services in a wide range of areas including fire control, libraries, ports and inlets, mosquito control, water control, community development, roads and hospitals. In some cases, special districts play an expanded role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities, conservation and resource management services.

Navigation districts in the state play a particularly important role in outdoor recreation. The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)

and the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) provide assistance programs that develop waterway access projects such as boat ramps, marinas, boardwalks, fishing piers, waterfront parks, navigation channels, shoreline stabilization and environmental restoration projects. FIND is the state sponsor of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from the Georgia border to the southern end of Miami-Dade County and provides \$12 million annually through two assistance programs. WCIND stretches from the northern border of Manatee County to the southern border of Lee County and contains the 152-mile long Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Local Government Providers

Besides being the main provider of user-oriented recreation facilities and programs, local governments are pursuing opportunities to acquire open space and conservation areas for their communities, often in partnerships with state agencies or non-profit conservation groups. Although the size of the properties acquired under these programs may not be as large as the properties acquired for conservation by state and federal agencies, they can be critically important in achieving a community's goals for environmental preservation, recreation and open space, or growth management.

Much of the success of the state's land acquisition programs is the result of the cooperative partnerships between federal, state and local governments and national and local land trusts. Many of the projects have been sponsored jointly by partnering arrangements and such partnerships with local governments have increased in recent years. Of Florida's 67 counties, 29 have implemented land acquisition programs as have several cities and regional authorities. Such programs have generated nearly \$2

billion to acquire conservation and recreation lands.

County Roles

Florida's counties vary in character from densely populated metropolitan areas such as Miami-Dade and Pinellas, to sparsely populated rural areas like Glades and Liberty. County governments are key components of Florida's recreation and park system. All counties do not have the same outdoor recreation needs nor have they all been able to fund responsive programs to the same degree, but every county in the state has an officially established outdoor recreation program. In some counties, user-oriented recreation programming is limited, but resource-based facilities such as roadside picnic areas or boat ramps are common amenities. In some counties, user-oriented facilities may be available only at public schools and municipal parks. More than half of Florida's counties, however, have undertaken sophisticated recreation programs involving the administration of numerous and diverse parks, facilities and program activities.

Counties are primarily concerned with the local outdoor recreation needs generated by extra-municipal populations and as a rule are the ideal level of government to provide regional or large community parks. Unlike cities, the larger acreage of counties provides a wider range of resources and a greater variety of outdoor recreation venues. As a result, the typical county outdoor recreation program in Florida may offer a combination of resource-based and user-oriented activities. Beaches, swimming areas, boating access sites, picnic sites, scenic areas and, occasionally, campgrounds are among the more popular types of resource-based areas and facilities provided.

Municipal Roles

Virtually all of Florida's 412 municipalities have recreation programs and facilities of one type or another. Many cities have developed park and recreation programs with trained staff involved in the administration of parks, facilities and programs. Smaller cities may have only limited facilities and rely on the county government, local school system, private organizations or non-profit groups to carry out athletic programs.

Because of population densities and the lack of large open space areas that support resource-based recreation opportunities, municipal recreation systems tend to concentrate on providing more intensive user-oriented facilities that require relatively little space. Typical municipal outdoor recreation facilities include playgrounds, swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts and golf courses. Because of the near total reliance on user-oriented facilities, municipal programs have only a limited bearing on the statewide resource-based outdoor recreation program. There are some exceptions, however, especially in the cases of cities located on bodies of water. For example, Atlantic and Gulf coastal communities provide many excellent public beach facilities, while those located on navigable waters (coastal or inland) operate marinas, boat ramps, mooring fields and other boating facilities.

Although little in the way of resource-based outdoor recreation facilities is provided by the typical municipal outdoor recreation program, municipal programs play a primary role in the provision of user-oriented recreation opportunities in Florida. The importance of the role of municipal programs will grow as increased public emphasis is placed on close-to-home recreation. Since municipal

recreation agencies are the recreation system closest to the people, they are usually the first to feel the pressures to establish programs for meeting the added demands of new residents.

Non-Government Roles

In addition to the more conventional forms of outdoor recreation provided by all levels of government, a wide array of recreational opportunities is afforded by the private sector. Private programs range from for-profit recreational enterprises such as campgrounds, golf courses, marinas and attractions of all kinds to non-profit conservation organizations. Industries with extensive land holdings, notably the forest products industry in Florida, provide vast recreation resources and excellent facilities on their lands for the use of the public often at only a nominal fee. However, this resource is quickly disappearing in many parts of the state as timber lands are being converted to private access leases or developed for residential and commercial purposes.

Private outdoor recreation, because of its size, complexity and the fact that it undergoes rapid and frequent change, is extremely difficult to inventory in a comprehensive manner. In addition to its direct delivery of outdoor recreation opportunities, the private sector can respond quickly to opportunities for acquiring property for subsequent donation or resale. This capability makes the private sector a valuable partner with public agencies in the provision of resource-based outdoor recreation. During the past decade, private companies and non-profit organizations have transferred thousands of acres to state government for recreation and conservation purposes. Those transfers represent a substantial contribution to the

overall supply of outdoor recreational opportunities in Florida.

Commercial Providers

Florida's commercial outdoor recreation providers are a vital component of the state's economy. Commercial providers meet a significant portion of the overall demand for both resource-based and user-oriented outdoor recreation in Florida, particularly tourist-generated demand. Because of their capabilities and further potential for fulfilling demand, the private commercial sector must bear a large share of the responsibility for meeting demand for both resource-based and user-oriented recreation.

Private Organizations

This category includes private and quasi-public organizations such as the YMCA, 4-H, scouting organizations, faith-based groups and a myriad of conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Archbold Biological Station and Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy. In many cases these organizations not only acquire and manage conservation land, but they also conduct preservation, restoration and research programs and public educational activities. These groups provide land and facilities primarily for the use of members, but in some cases for the public at large.



Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, Leon County

Clubs

This category includes hunt clubs, country clubs, tennis clubs, yacht clubs and others. These groups manage land or facilities that are primarily available only to organization members or their guests. In addition, private industry lands are included (timber companies and other industries with extensive land holdings whose lands or portions thereof are open to the public). The majority of these lands are used for resource-based recreation, although some forms of user-oriented facilities are also available.

