

Chapter 4 - Outdoor Recreation Supply and Regional Profiles

A complete inventory of the supply of existing outdoor recreation resources and facilities in Florida is vital to outdoor recreation planning and implementation. The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) maintains an inventory that provides details regarding the existing parks, recreation areas, open spaces and other outdoor recreation sites in the state. The inventory includes the known outdoor recreation facilities and resources provided by federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations and clubs. The supply information presented in this chapter is a useful planning tool for public and private recreation interests and it should assist them in analyzing outdoor recreation and open space needs and establishing program goals and priorities.

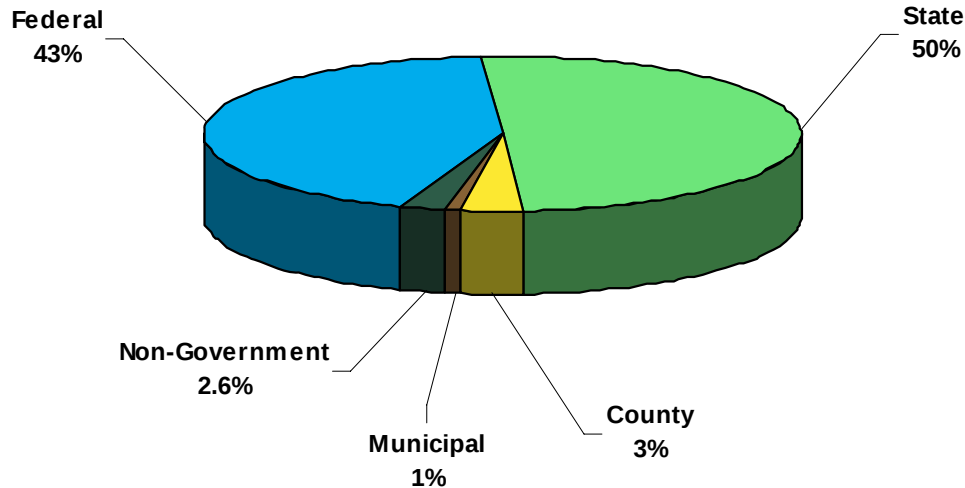
DRP updates the statewide supply inventory every two years. The most recent update was completed in September 2007. Public outdoor recreation providers were contacted and asked to verify or correct the information about their agency's existing resources and facilities and to provide information on new sites and facilities. The updated information was conveyed electronically in most cases. Inventory forms were mailed to agencies that were unable to access the supply inventory data electronically. Additionally, DRP used secondary data sources, including trade publications, Internet Web pages, recreation directories and guides, and local government comprehensive plans to identify new providers to add to the inventory. In updating the inventory of private recreation facilities, emphasis was placed on verifying the information for more than 3,000 recreation areas already contained in the inventory from previous updates. New

private sites were identified through the secondary data sources previously listed.

The updated information on outdoor recreation supply was compiled in the Outdoor Recreation Planning Data Base. The data base enables DRP to compute totals, summaries and other analyses that are necessary for Florida's outdoor recreation plan and to provide reasonably current, accurate and easily accessible data to any public agency or interested individual.

It should be recognized that DRP relies on self-reporting of data by the various agencies and providers that contribute information to the inventory. Additionally, there are certain private sector outdoor recreation resources and facilities that are not included in the private supply inventory. Included in this group are privately-owned lands and facilities which may be available to the public on an individual basis after receiving permission from the landowner. These lands comprise thousands of acres and can accommodate many outdoor recreation activities including hunting, fishing, camping and hiking. Other resources that are not included in the inventory are backyard pools, private vacation cabins, boat docks, driveway basketball courts, apartment complexes and hotel/motel recreation facilities. These resources and facilities are not available to the public on a formal basis, and it is virtually impossible to identify them with the degree of accuracy required to include them in the private supply inventory.

Figure 4.1
Statewide Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider



Statewide Overview of Supply

Table 4.1 shows the statewide results of the outdoor recreation supply inventory update by level of provider. Public agencies and private providers supplied a total of more than 13 million acres of land and water for outdoor recreational use. Federal and state lands constitute 93 percent of the total outdoor recreation and conservation acreage in the state. The federal government provides 43 percent of the statewide acreage through various types of areas of national significance, including national parks and preserves, national forests, national wildlife refuges and military lands. State agencies provide fully one-half of the statewide acreage through a variety of programs and managed areas, including state parks, state forests, water management areas, greenways and

trails, wildlife management areas and water management lands.

Florida's local governments supply only four percent of the statewide outdoor recreation acreage, but they provide two-thirds of the individual parks and recreation areas in the state. Typically, they provide numerous passive and open space areas and access to many water bodies, affording opportunities for a variety of water-dependent recreation activities. Their primary involvement, however, is in supplying virtually all of the public facilities needed for user-oriented recreation.

Non-government organizations provide the remaining lands (346,000 acres) through a variety of commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations and clubs. A significant por-

tion of the overall demand for outdoor recreation in Florida is met by these private sector interests. This category also includes private and quasi-public organization lands and private industry lands.

Regional Summaries

The remainder of this chapter provides summaries of the outdoor recreation resources and facilities that are found in each of Florida's 11 planning regions (refer to map on page 1-2). Each regional summary includes

a map of the public conservation lands located in the region, a brief profile of the region's physical and socio-economic characteristics, and tables that display the outdoor recreation resources and facilities available in the region. The regional summaries illustrate the diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities that are available throughout the state and each region's uniqueness as a setting for outdoor recreation activities.



The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve, Osceola County

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.1
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Statewide
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	137	936	3,823	5,254	3,085	13,235
LAND	Acres	4,351,881	4,512,461	376,368	106,433	324,095	9,671,238
WATER	Acres	1,467,576	2,131,414	48,623	5,774	20,567	3,673,955
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	5,806,028	6,663,651	425,061	112,183	346,035	13,352,957
RESOURCE BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	93	251	85	15	3,728	4,172
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	1,312	4,679	1,674	790	11,590	20,044
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	2,229	3,867	3,241	2,027	150,677	162,041
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	385	381	143	227	192	1,328
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	14	49	100	122	33	318
MUSEUMS	Museums	34	94	128	90	170	516
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	2,243	6,874	20,593	17,626	68,750	116,086
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	2,103,620	3,157,725	23,400	2,896	2,855	5,290,496
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	99.5	331.0	433.6	480.2	80.5	1424.8
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	140.4	1495.1	487.7	207.3	52.7	2383.2
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	480.3	1143.5	231.2	100.7	339.3	2295.0
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	839.4	3037.7	860.7	388.2	297.8	5423.8
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	228.7	1301.9	508.7	152.7	169.4	2361.4
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	85.4	171.7	499.5	496.6	72.3	1325.5
OHV TRAIL	Miles	407.0	426.0	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	833.1
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	303.8	910.5	671.6	375.6	213.4	2474.9
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.8	2.1	17.6	5.3	33.6	59.5
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	90	340	629	279	401	1,739
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	101	372	773	345	458	2,049
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	111	234	2,241	4,577	784	7,947
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	908	8,576	52,977	45,126	26,860	134,447
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	120	97	3,482	69,742	1,356	74,797
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	6	2	6	13	430	457
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	44	120	221	633	10,744	11,762
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	26	45	180	227	92	570
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	4,425	4,278	15,316	23,114	43,045	90,178
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	180.2	110.1	86.6	87.1	37.1	501.1
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	40	46	260	267	326	939
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	58	64	420	359	367	1,268
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	57	53	182	192	147	631
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	23,197	25,859	59,337	119,175	42,671	270,239
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	11,050	2,086	8,002	16,205	10,854	48,197
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	18	4	19	68	828	937
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	1,439	309	1,271	5,723	36,974	45,716
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	17	23	119	148	105	412
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	7,514	22,907	40,379	57,172	20,435	148,407
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	67	80	2,463	2,666	195	5,471
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	90	138	3,754	3,285	677	7,944
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	66	87	1,790	2,465	473	4,881
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	25	57	877	844	95	1,898
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	10	3	15	62	690	780
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	5	1	13	20	138	177
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	1	1	3	10	190	205
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	243	66	417	1,431	14,544	16,701
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	11	14	402	395	170	992
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	14	69	922	676	241	1,922
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	23	31	151	290	1,572	2,067
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	27	227	653	734	266	1,907
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	6	45	380	1,829	2,576	4,836
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	115	399	1,786	2,737	4,244	9,281
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	1	54	293	231	53	632

Table 4.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Region

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	WEST		NORTH		NORTHEAST		EAST		TAMPA		TREASURE		STATEWIDE
		FLORIDA	APALACHEE	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	WITHLACOCOCHEE	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	CENTRAL	BAY	SOUTHWESTI	COASTI	SOUTH	
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	1,065	534	640	591	2,064	804	1,858	1,314	2,054	13,235			
LAND	Acres	938,399	1,339,773	558,956	889,223	351,377	258,583	1,338,840	665,617	1,796,151	9,671,238			
WATER	Acres	131,812	280,243	573,833	114,589	358,458	40,349	49,684	76,339	1,350,609	3,673,955			
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	1,070,373	1,620,016	1,132,788	736,964	1,224,136	391,816	325,764	748,130	3,146,974	13,352,957			
RESOURCE BASED														
CABINS	Cabins	164	222	315	644	547	306	646	208	63	382	4,172		
TENT CAMP SITES	Sites	1,968	1,684	1,692	1,302	3,323	1,009	1,191	1,236	804	1,290	20,044		
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	5,231	2,442	4,534	4,664	10,634	25,434	29,561	25,160	7,071	12,207	162,041		
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	66	176	70	343	91	24	17	103	35	108	1,328		
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	21	9	6	23	11	42	5	17	318	40	318		
MUSEUMS	Museums	34	18	33	58	27	19	55	52	55	71	516		
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	6,567	3,312	4,218	5,021	7,253	9,965	18,201	15,451	5,897	14,258	116,086		
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	658,525	946,422	342,155	345,394	565,384	128,767	58,320	771,385	343,366	698,451	5,290,496		
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	32	48	69	71	99	240	57	136	79	404	1,425		
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	84	160	231	228	314	177	313	173	74	2,383	74	2,383	
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	295	234	252	177	314	244	53	160	211	65	292	2,295	
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	299	555	486	493	509	429	393	392	420	5,424	420	5,424	
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	73	131	246	207	308	530	218	252	139	2,361	139	2,361	
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	68	118	69	101	81	314	58	163	81	191	1,326		
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0	150	238	192	187	16	0	50	0	833	0	833	
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	105	298	207	186	259	407	195	194	117	254	2,475		
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	2	1	1	2	2	10	4	24	2	3	59		
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	225	159	144	155	151	291	249	78	110	110	1,739		
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	233	210	179	176	168	283	102	102	103	144	2,049		
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	43	59	21	67	75	157	59	72	203	45	7,947		
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	8,756	7,240	5,905	8,496	8,881	10,374	18,002	7,756	33	8,609	134,447		
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	525	0	722	5	10,927	25,750	30,551	1,340	250	4,727	74,797		
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	5	16	13	54	46	116	147	11	22	7	457		
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	61	425	310	2,526	1,298	864	1,082	200	937	325	11,762		
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	71	25	29	63	34	128	63	61	32	39	570		
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	7,496	3,160	3,372	8,001	4,455	17,101	6,556	3,134	31,789	2,002	90,178		
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	119	51	0	51	0	53	0	52	40	68	501		
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	139	41	25	54	20	116	0	143	91	202	939		
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	177	59	27	69	24	139	0	213	121	283	1,268		
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	86	9	8	40	8	99	71	147	98	65	631		
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	24,702	2,789	535	9,153	1,020	37,181	0	35,738	19,060	108,040	270,239		
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	2,201	0	0	6,306	1,830	1,150	0	2,201	5,443	21,316	48,197		
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	89	19	8	26	6	60	0	105	163	334	937		
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	4,447	859	236	2,292	123	4,119	0	7,825	6,395	5,455	45,716		
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	66	10	2	22	9	65	0	66	72	28	412		
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	44,987	2,680	750	14,805	2,035	11,973	0	39,236	13,205	13,441	148,407		
USER-ORIENTED														
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	487	256	210	587	307	820	379	764	589	758	5,471		
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	335	244	501	677	482	1,368	451	1,043	931	1,539	7,944		
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	358	209	252	468	229	296	242	657	519	796	4,881		
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	133	60	78	171	101	309	76	260	243	374	1,898		
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	47	9	6	60	48	114	42	90	102	103	780		
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	10	11	8	13	11	15	25	17	121	177	1,268		
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	45	2	2	4	17	23	26	26	35	26	205		
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	958	270	216	1,236	702	2,106	1,053	2,097	3,324	2,372	16,701		
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	38	24	57	26	49	153	65	284	132	133	992		
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	142	68	170	134	116	296	78	230	308	288	1,922		
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	118	46	48	137	87	319	139	285	230	394	2,067		
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	52	89	73	81	98	321	87	203	85	504	1,907		
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	101	14	50	101	234	993	656	1,154	433	524	4,836		
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	489	220	196	617	224	1,295	379	1,330	1,489	2,127	9,281		
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	16	11	84	61	42	129	26	23	82	102	632		

West Florida Region

The West Florida Region encompasses 6,507 square miles and contains seven counties and 35 municipalities located in the western Florida Panhandle. Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and Bay counties share 135 miles of coastline on the Gulf of Mexico. Holmes and Washington counties are inland and contain a total of 43 named freshwater springs, most occurring in Washington County.

The coastal counties are buffered by several barrier islands and peninsulas that offer miles of high quality white sandy beaches. Panhandle Florida beaches with their famous sugar-like sand were, until the last two decades, a well-kept secret known mainly to visitors from southeastern states who flocked to the Gulf Coast in the summer. Mexico Beach, Pensacola, Navarre, Destin, Ft. Walton and Panama City beaches all

continue to grow in popularity each year. The reopening of repaired access points and re-nourished stretches of beach are vital to the region's economy. Tourism continues to play a major role in the West region where high-rise condominiums, vacation homes, timeshares and resorts with beachside swimming pools dominate the coastline and attract visitors from all over the world.

West Florida's two largest river systems, the Choctawhatchee and the Escambia, both originate in Alabama and flow south creating large estuaries before merging with the Gulf. Although Holmes and Washington counties are the only counties completely inland, the northern reaches of each of the region's counties share a similar pattern of development. While the coastal region is highly urbanized and developed, the inland areas north of Interstate 10 remain sparsely developed and retain large forest resources that provide numerous opportunities for outdoor

Figure 4.1.1
Public Conservation Lands

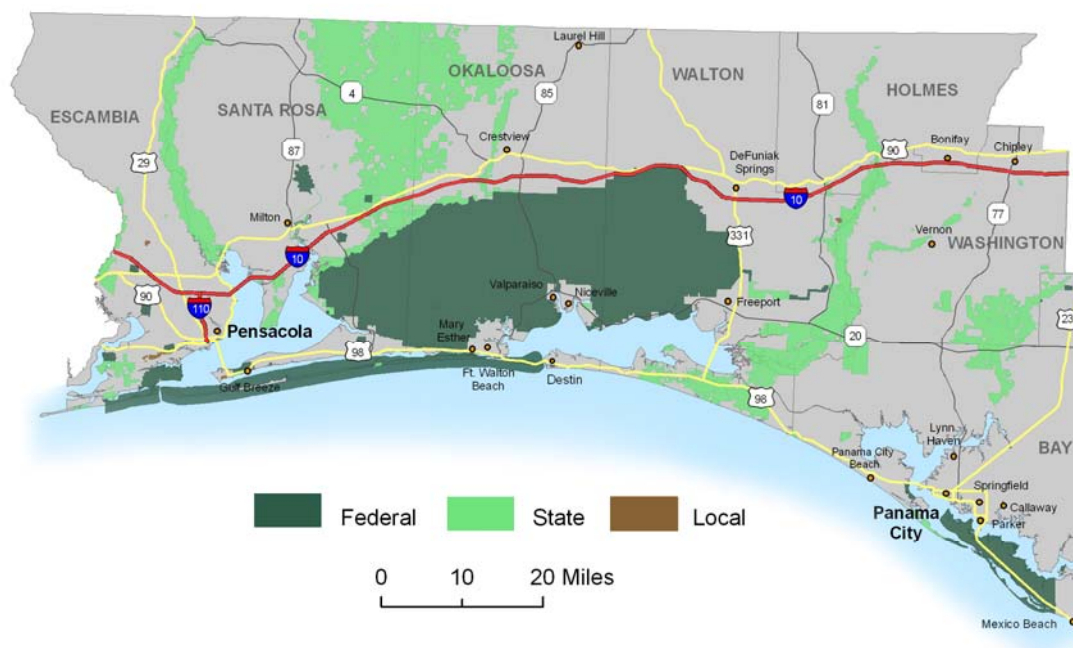


Table 4.1.1
Current and Projected Population
West Florida Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Bay	148,217	167,631	172,000	183,900	194,800	31.4
Escambia	294,410	311,755	316,200	328,000	338,900	15.1
Holmes	18,564	19,464	19,700	20,400	21,000	13.1
Okaloosa	170,498	196,540	202,400	218,000	232,400	36.3
Santa Rosa	117,743	142,144	148,200	163,400	177,500	50.8
Walton	40,601	57,093	60,800	70,300	79,300	95.3
Washington	20,973	23,719	24,800	27,700	29,000	38.3
Region Totals	811,006	918,346	944,100	1,011,700	1,072,900	32.3

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

recreation. Camping, hunting, trail activities and a myriad of freshwater sports - including boating, fishing, water skiing, diving and swimming - are pleasurable activities with no urban area in sight.

Economy

The large presence of the United States military in this region plays a key role in the local economy and is a major factor in land use patterns, including the availability of recreation land. Military spending is a major component of employment and earnings in the region. According to a 2007 study by the Hass Center for Business Research at the University of West Florida, 45 percent of all military and civilian defense employment in Florida is centered in the West region. Military installations contain more than a half million acres of land in the region. Each service of the military provides extensive outdoor recreation opportunities for active and retired staff and their dependents. Public hunting is provided on more than 287,000 acres of wildlife management areas on the Eglin and Tyndall reservations.

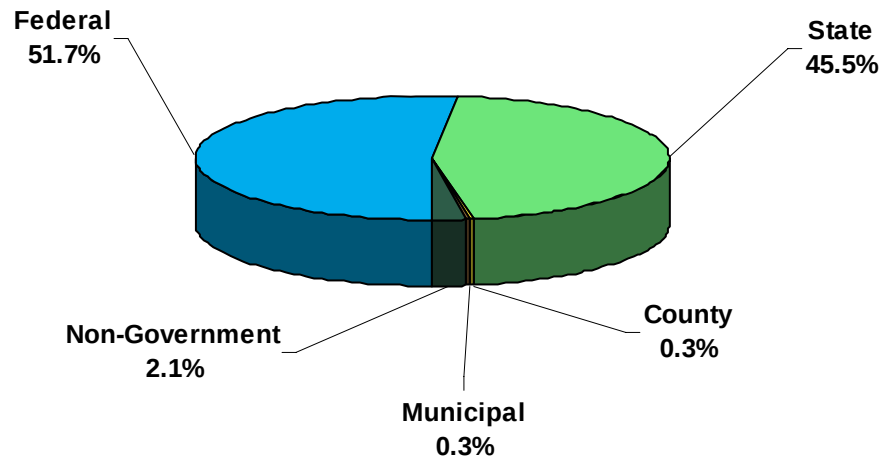
Demographics

Estimated population for the seven county area exceeded 918,000 in 2007. Mid-range projections estimate 1.1 million residents by 2020, a 32 percent increase from the 2000 census. Population densities range from a low of 40 persons per square mile in Holmes and Washington counties to a high of 470 persons per square mile in Escambia County. Table 4.1.1 displays the projected population growth for the region through 2020.



Eglin Air Force Base, Okaloosa County

Figure 4.1.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
West Florida Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

West Florida's beaches, bays and estuaries are major attractions that offer an abundance of high quality opportunities for water-

based recreation. The region has just more than one million acres available for outdoor recreation from both the public and private sectors, or 1.12 acres per capita. Figure 4.1.2 displays the distribution of outdoor recreation acreage among the various levels of providers.



St. Andrews State Park, Bay County



Tyndall Youth Center, Bay County

Federal and state agencies provide more than 95 percent of the outdoor recreation land in the region. Federally-managed lands account for 51 percent of the land with Eglin Air Force Base providing most of the acreage. Other federally-managed sites include Gulf Islands National Seashore, Tyndall Air Force Base and Pensacola Naval Air Station. In addition, 45 miles of hiking trails, 467 RV/trailer campsites, 31 baseball fields and 59 tennis courts are provided at federal areas.

State agencies provide 45 percent (468,312 acres) of outdoor recreation land in the region. The region contains 15 state parks, four aquatic preserves and four state forests that offer resource-based activities including hiking, horseback riding and picnicking. The state also provides 166 miles of canoe and kayak trails, 18 miles of saltwater beaches, four saltwater piers and 16 historic sites.

Although county and municipal governments make up a small portion of the outdoor recreation land in West Florida, they provide the overwhelming majority of user-oriented facilities. Local governments manage a total of 759 recreation sites containing over 6,000 acres. These areas provide 434 baseball and softball fields, 249 basketball goals, 117 golf holes and 111 football fields. In addition to user-oriented facilities, local governments provide 11 miles of saltwater beach, 42 miles of jogging trails and 22 miles of nature trails, much of which are frequently used by locals and tourists alike.

A combination of commercial, non-profit and club organizations make up the private sector supply, totaling 21,794 acres. The private sector manages 98 of the 118 inventoried outdoor swimming pools, 35 of the 47 golf courses and 3,500 of the 4,447 saltwater marina slips in the region. In addition, the private sector is the leading provider of tennis courts, shuffleboard courts and freshwater marina slips. Most notably, the private



Lake Stone Campground, Escambia County

sector accounts for 72 percent of the RV/trailer campsites in the region.

Table 4.1.2 displays West Florida's outdoor recreation resources by category of provider. Table 4.1.3 displays the major outdoor recreation areas provided or managed by federal, state and local government entities.



Emerald Beach RV Park, Okaloosa County

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.1.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
West Florida Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	19	76	395	364	211	1,065
LAND	Acres	521,593	406,620	2,393	3,175	21,005	954,787
WATER	Acres	52,192	77,917	777	137	789	131,812
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	573,785	484,700	3,170	3,312	21,794	1,086,762
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	36	46	0	0	82	164
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	555	919	20	2	472	1,968
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	467	827	135	0	3,802	5,231
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	20	16	2	19	9	66
COMMEMORATIVE STRUCTURES	Structures	1	0	2	16	2	21
MUSEUMS	Museums	4	2	0	6	22	34
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	887	776	1,244	1,071	2,589	6,567
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	285,861	371,809	0	0	855	658,525
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	15.6	1.2	11.9	3.0	31.7
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	6.0	71.3	2.4	4.7	0.0	84.4
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	80.2	166.0	9.0	0.0	40.0	295.2
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	45.0	211.3	9.7	9.1	24.1	299.2
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	14.5	48.0	10.0	0.4	0.0	72.9
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	17.2	6.3	10.9	30.6	2.7	67.7
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	18.8	59.3	10.0	11.7	5.6	105.4
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.3	2.2
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	33	80	84	15	13	225
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	35	82	86	16	14	233
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	7	5	3	15	13	43
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	387	605	866	3,364	3,534	8,756
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	120	5	150	0	250	525
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	2	0	0	0	3	5
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	6	0	0	0	55	61
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	14	7	30	13	7	71
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	3,700	346	1,549	1,405	496	7,496
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	86.0	18.1	4.3	7.2	3.0	118.6
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	14	6	30	45	44	139
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	22	10	35	61	49	177
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	20	11	7	31	17	86
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	15,425	1,150	1,625	3,457	3,045	24,702
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	1,000	5	250	56	890	2,201
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	9	0	2	3	75	89
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	459	0	15	473	3,500	4,447
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	6	4	18	28	10	66
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	5,950	2,056	11,189	22,407	3,385	44,987
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	31	7	196	238	15	487
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	38	4	73	176	44	335
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	17	11	118	174	38	358
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	11	2	54	60	6	133
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	6	0	0	6	35	47
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	2	0	0	0	8	10
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	1	1	1	0	42	45
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	144	3	9	108	694	958
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	6	5	8	5	14	38
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	8	3	61	52	18	142
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	12	2	0	6	98	118
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	9	23	5	10	5	52
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	2	6	6	25	62	101
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	59	35	38	153	204	489
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	0	8	5	3	16

Table 4.1.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
West Florida Region
2007

Federal Areas

Military Installations	<u>Acres</u>	State Parks (continued)	<u>Acres</u>
Eglin Air Force Base	460,909	Deer Lake	1,995
Tyndall Air Force Base	28,823	Eden Gardens	162
National Park Lands		Falling Waters	173
Gulf Islands National Seashore	66,584	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou	346
(Florida portion)		Grayton Beach	2,172
State Areas		Henderson Beach	219
Aquatic Preserves		Navarre Beach	130
Fort Pickens	34,000	Perdido Key	290
Rocky Bayou	480	Ponce de Leon Springs	349
St. Andrew's Bay	25,000	St. Andrews	1,170
Yellow River Marsh	16,435	Tarkiln Bayou	4,262
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>	Topsail Hill	1,643
Pensacola Scenic Bluffs Highway	11	Yellow River Marsh	815
Greenways and Trails		Water Management District Lands	
Blackwater Heritage Trail	10	Northwest Florida WMD	
State Forests	<u>Acres</u>	Blackwater River	380
Blackwater River*	206,351	Choctawhatchee River*	60,596
Cottage Hill	31	Econfina Creek*	41,168
Pine Log *	8,621	Garcon Point	3,245
Point Washington *	15,321	Lower Escambia*	34,919
State Parks		Perdido River *	5,456
Big Lagoon	732	Yellow River*	17,721
Blackwater River	636	Wildlife Management Areas	
Camp Helen	182	Blue Water Creek*	21,000

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Bay	99	288	120	666
Escambia	104	1,193	97	630
Holmes	13	65	8	52
Okaloosa	50	223	95	1,211
Santa Rosa	59	300	17	370
Walton	40	444	16	273
Washington	30	657	11	112

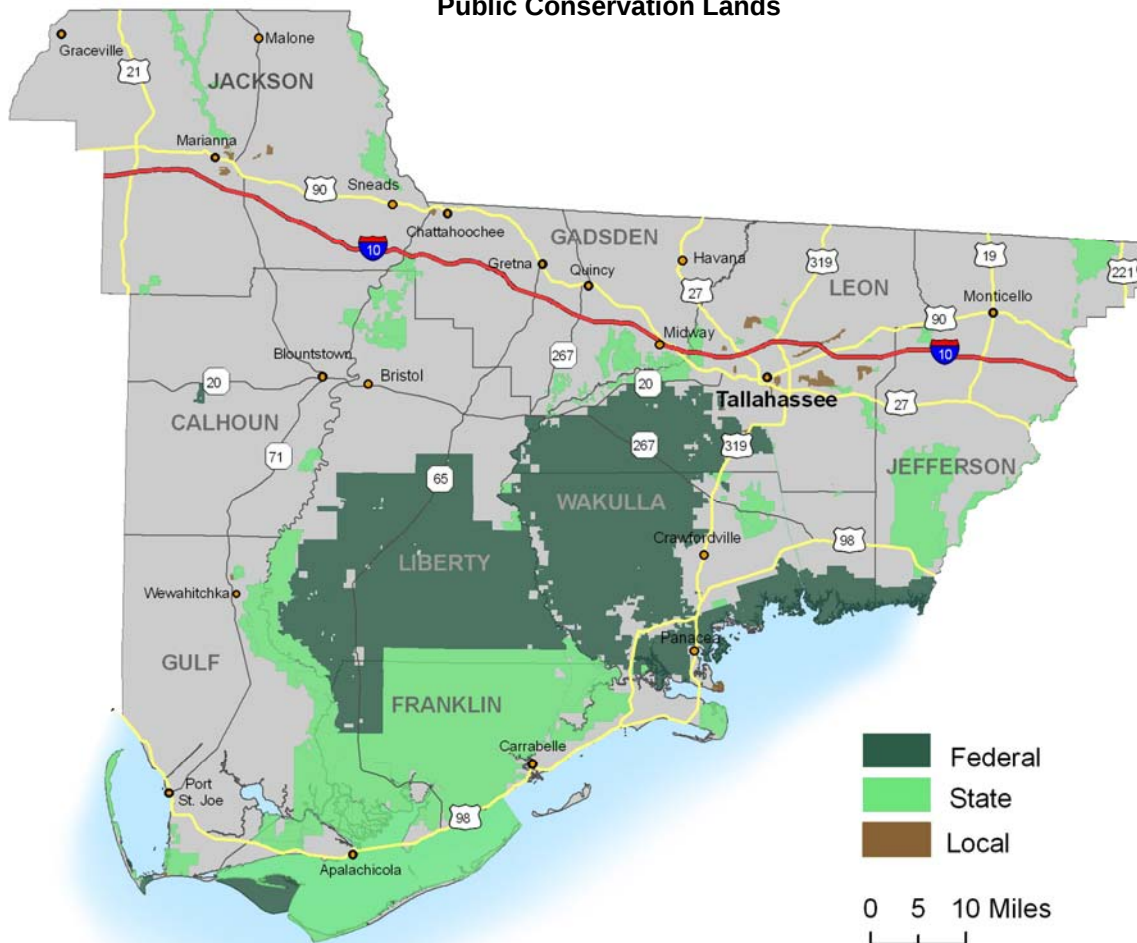
Apalachee Region

The Apalachee Region is comprised of nine counties and 29 municipalities covering 6,757 acres. The coastlines of Franklin, Gulf and Wakulla counties extend 86 miles east to west along the Gulf of Mexico in the northern Big Bend area. Calhoun, Gadsden, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon and Liberty counties are located inland.

The Apalachicola and Ochlockonee Rivers divide the region into three distinct geographical areas. Although the Apalachicola River is located entirely within Florida, it is

formed by the confluence of two rivers outside the state: the Flint River in Alabama and the Chattahoochee River in Georgia. As the Apalachicola flows south to the Gulf of Mexico, its waters strongly influence the estuarine conditions in the highly productive Apalachicola Bay system. Along the coast, barrier islands provide sandy beaches and help to protect the mainland from the full force of tropical storms. Typical natural features in the northern part of the region include riverine swamps and wetlands, forested uplands and vast pinelands.

Figure 4.2.1
Public Conservation Lands





The Old Capitol Building in Tallahassee, Leon County

Economy

The economy of the region is heavily dependent on government employment and spending. Tallahassee, the state capital, is located in Leon County which, as the seat of government for the fourth largest state in the nation and home to two major state universities, is the most urbanized county in the region and is a principal business and commercial hub. The surrounding counties are predominantly rural and contain well over a million acres of public conservation land. Every county in the region with the exception of Leon County, has been designated as a “Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern” by the state. This designation provides incentives and benefits aimed at giving these communities an advantage in attracting industries and jobs.

Regional employment in timber harvesting, pulp and paper manufacturing, and fishing and seafood processing has significantly declined. In the past two decades, thousands of acres of timberland have been offered for sale in response to structural changes in the pulp and paper industry. In the 1990s, saltwater net ban legislation seriously curtailed the seafood industry, and major storms in 2002, 2004 and 2005 further damaged the region’s fisheries. In 2007, drought conditions dealt yet another blow to one of the region’s remaining seafood sectors - shellfish harvesting. Disruptions to the historical flows of fresh water from the Apalachicola River have had substantial negative impacts on the region’s once vigorous shellfish industry.

Tourism is another major component of the region’s economy. Many out-of-state visi-

Table 4.2.1
Current and Projected Population
Apalachee Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change
			2010	2015	2020	2000-2020
Calhoun	13,017	14,477	14,800	15,600	16,300	25.2
Franklin	9,829	12,249	12,400	13,000	13,500	37.3
Gadsden	45,087	49,398	50,700	52,700	54,600	21.1
Gulf	14,560	16,815	17,100	17,900	18,600	27.7
Jackson	46,555	50,416	53,100	54,800	56,500	21.4
Jefferson	12,902	14,494	14,700	15,300	15,800	22.5
Leon	239,452	272,896	279,200	297,300	312,400	30.5
Liberty	7,021	7,772	7,900	8,300	8,700	23.9
Wakulla	22,863	29,417	32,500	36,500	40,200	75.8
Region Totals	411,286	467,934	482,400	511,400	536,600	30.5

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

tors and Florida residents vacation in the region's beach towns. Visitors also travel to the springs, sinkholes and caverns found in the region's state parks, national forests and state forests. The region also has an abundance of historical and archaeological sites, which are highly popular among both tourists and residents.

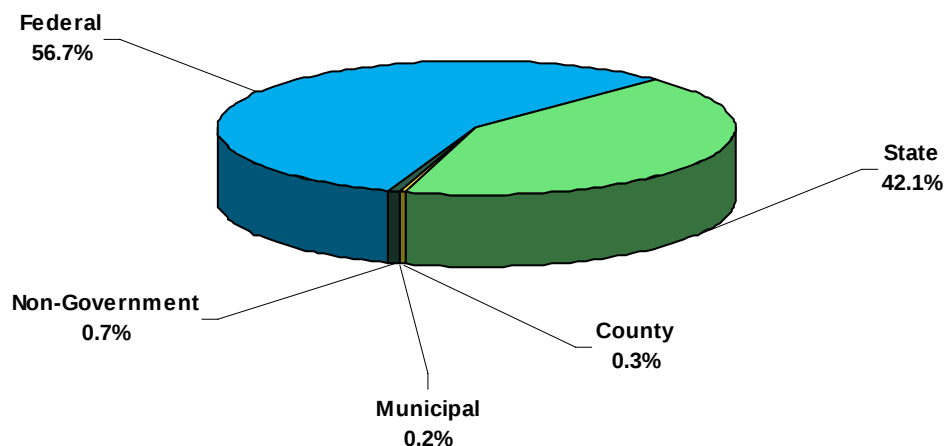
Demographics

In 2007, the Apalachee Region contained 2.5 percent of Florida's total population, most residing in Leon County. Total estimated 2007 population for the nine-county area was 468,000. Mid-range projections estimate 537,000 residents by 2020, a 30 percent increase from 2000. Population density ranges from nine persons per square mile in Liberty County to 409 persons per square mile in Leon County. Table 4.2.1 displays population and projected growth for the region through 2020.



Blountstown Greenway, Calhoun County

Figure 4.2.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
Apalachee Region



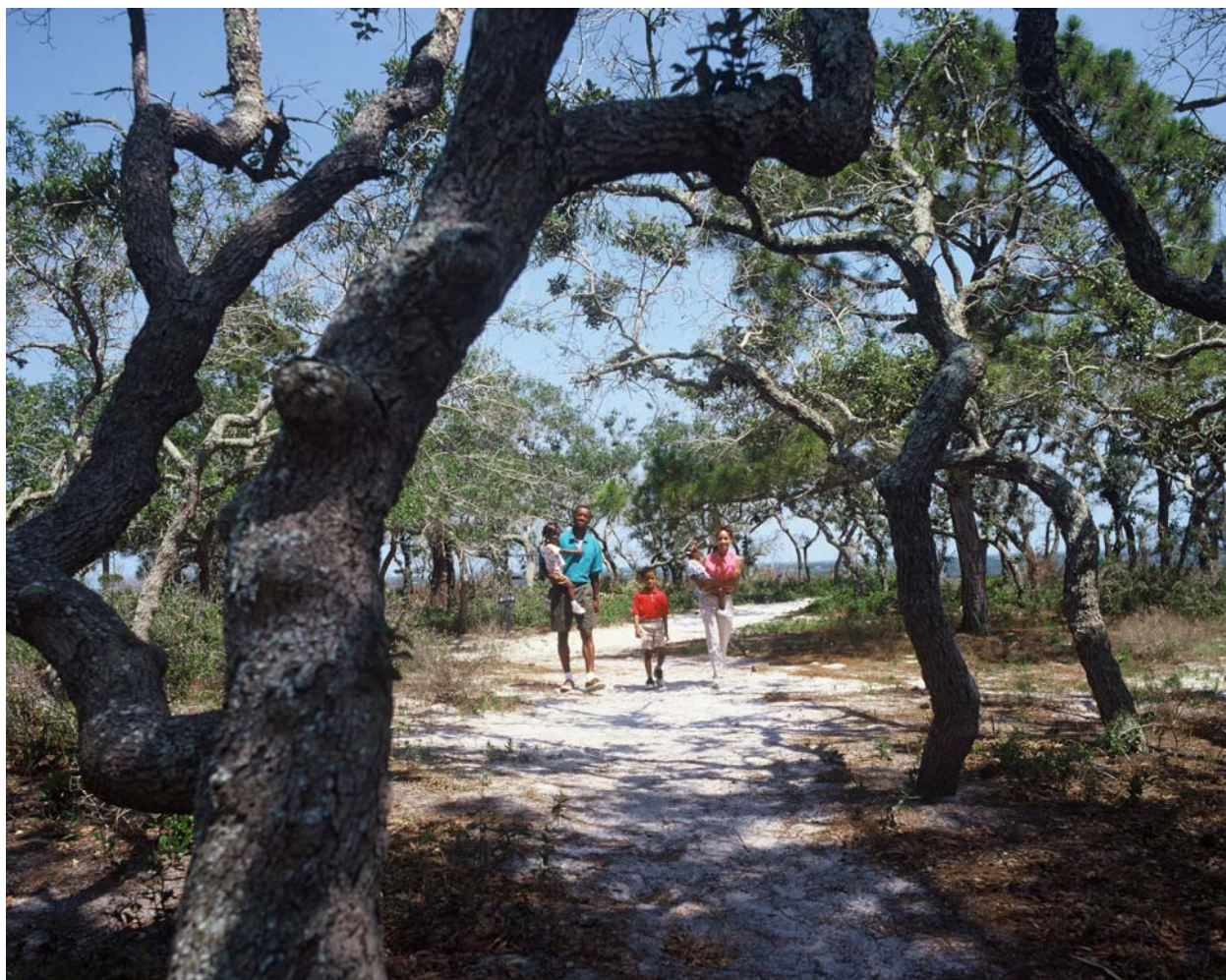
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

The region's diverse geography provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The sandy Gulf beaches, barrier islands, bays and estuaries of the *Coastal Lowlands* and the large areas of forested uplands provide for camping, hiking, nature study, bicycle riding, saltwater and freshwater beach activities, fishing and boating. The Apalachicola National Forest covers 569,638 acres in Franklin, Leon, Wakulla and Liberty counties and offers a wide range of outdoor recreation on a large scale. The largest national forest in Florida, it is also one of the largest remaining intact areas of freshwater savannas and pine forests in the state. Also in the region, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is a bird watchers paradise which every year attracts visitors from all over the world as this outdoor recreation activity gains in popularity. Local communities in the region are turning to nature-based tourism to promote and market the area's unique natural resources, including the still largely undevel-

oped coastlines and many rural communities.

The Apalachee Region has over 1.6 million acres of land available for outdoor recreation use, or 3.5 acres per capita. As shown in Figure 4.2.2, virtually all of the outdoor recreation land is provided by public agencies. Federally-managed lands account for a large portion of the resource-based outdoor recreation opportunities. Of the hunting lands, 60 percent is managed by the federal government. Federal agencies also provide 280 miles of hiking trails, 132 miles of nature trails and 47 miles of unpaved bicycle trails. The major federal properties are the Apalachicola National Forest, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge.

State agencies are the second largest category of outdoor recreation providers in the region. State agencies manage 42 percent of the inventoried land available for outdoor recreation. There are 98 state owned sites that provide 484 tent campsites, 308



T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, Gulf County

RV/trailer campsites, 150 miles of off-highway vehicle trails and 65 miles of unpaved bicycle trails.

Although less than one percent of the recreation acreage in the region is administered by local governments, these suppliers provide the bulk of user-oriented facilities. There are 329 local government outdoor recreation sites that provide 239 baseball/softball fields, 202 basketball goals, 176 equipped play areas and 127 tennis courts. In addition to the user-oriented facilities they provide, local governments provide extensive resource-based opportunities, particu-

larly for the freshwater and saltwater shoreline fishing including seven saltwater fishing piers and 14 freshwater piers.

Within the private sector, there are 96 outdoor recreation sites distributed over 11,934 acres of land. The private sector provides the majority of cabins, tent campsites and RV/trailer campsites. This sector also offers 15 freshwater marinas with a total of 412 slips and 16 saltwater marinas providing 743 marina slips for recreational boating use. The non-government sector also provides the majority of the region's golfing opportunities.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.2.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Apalachee Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	11	98	180	149	96	534
LAND	Acres	905,604	472,731	5,046	2,822	11,499	1,397,702
WATER	Acres	12,957	266,777	37	37	435	280,243
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	918,561	739,508	5,083	2,859	11,934	1,677,945
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	0	50	6	0	166	222
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	40	484	98	2	1,060	1,684
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	85	308	115	20	1,914	2,442
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	7	75	4	65	25	176
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	0	5	0	4	0	9
MUSEUMS	Museums	0	8	2	5	3	18
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	176	757	656	476	1,247	3,312
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	571,624	374,798	0	0	0	946,422
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	29.0	5.8	12.9	0.0	47.7
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	47.0	65.3	21.8	26.1	0.0	160.2
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	75.2	153.5	5.0	0.0	0.0	233.7
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	279.5	182.9	32.6	43.0	16.8	554.8
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	34.0	67.5	6.8	17.7	5.0	131.0
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	37.0	23.9	13.9	41.9	1.0	117.7
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	150.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	150.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	131.7	75.5	25.8	36.5	28.7	298.2
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.3
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	15	54	68	3	19	159
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	15	62	103	5	25	210
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	1	4	32	4	18	59
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	1,710	3,645	564	1,321	7,240
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	1	0	0	0	15	16
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	10	3	0	0	412	425
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	1	5	14	0	5	25
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	50	384	2,178	0	548	3,160
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	22.3	25.3	1.8	0.3	1.1	50.7
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	1	3	8	12	17	41
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	1	4	13	21	20	59
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	4	3	1	1	9
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	175	1,700	664	250	2,789
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	1	0	2	16	19
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	0	30	0	86	743	859
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	0	0	1	6	3	10
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	0	0	225	2,105	350	2,680
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	10	95	144	7	256
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	0	27	105	97	15	244
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	0	10	54	122	23	209
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	12	14	31	3	60
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	0	2	0	1	6	9
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	1	0	1	9	11
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	0	2	2
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	0	45	0	27	198	270
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	1	8	9	6	24
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	0	11	17	32	8	68
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	0	5	0	13	28	46
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	0	59	4	21	5	89
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	1	4	2	7	14
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	0	68	36	91	25	220
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	0	3	8	0	11

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.2.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Apalachee Region
2007

Federal Areas

	<u>Acres</u>
Army Corps of Engineers	
Lake Seminole (Florida portion)*	7,952
National Estuarine Research Reserves**	
Apalachicola Bay	246,766
National Forests	
Apalachicola*	569,638
National Wildlife Refuges	
St. Marks (Wakulla and Jefferson County portion)*	69,815
St. Vincent*	12,490

State Areas

Aquatic Preserves	
Alligator Harbor	14,366
Apalachicola Bay	80,000
Big Bend Seagrasses (Wakulla County portion)	100,000
Lake Jackson	4,700
St. Joseph Bay	66,702
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>
Big Bend Scenic Byway	220
Greenways and Trails	
Tallahassee-St. Marks Trail	16
State Forests	<u>Acres</u>
Lake Talquin*	17,491
Tate's Hell*	202,437
Wakulla*	4,219
State Parks	
Alfred B. Maclay Gardens	1,179
Bald Point	4,859
Constitution Convention	13
DeSoto Site	5
Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island	2,023

State Parks (continued)	<u>Acres</u>
Edward Ball Wakulla Springs	6,055
Florida Caverns	1,279
John Gorrie Museum	1
Lake Jackson Mounds	205
Lake Talquin	552
Letchworth-Love Mounds	188
Natural Bridge Battlefield	9
Ochlockonee River	544
Orman House	1
San Marcos de Apalache	15
St. Marks River	2,584
T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula	2,716
Three Rivers	668
Torreya	13,204

Water Management District Lands

Northwest Florida WMD	
Apalachicola River*	36,315
Upper Chipola River*	7,377
Suwannee River WMD	
Middle Aucilla*	9,218

Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife & Environmental Areas

Apalachicola River*	64,471
Aucilla (Jefferson County Portion)*	37,532
Box-R*	8,397
Flint Rock*	15,627
Joe Budd*	11,039
L. Kirk Edwards*	718
Robert Brent*	8,532
Middle Aucilla River*	2,200

* Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

** National Estuarine Research Reserves are designated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas.

Table 4.2.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Apalachee Region
2007
 (continued)

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Calhoun	11	240	4	36
Franklin	35	165	18	26
Gadsden	20	45	32	134
Gulf	22	343	13	149
Jackson	24	1,310	20	410
Jefferson	5	87	1	2
Leon	42	2,310	56	2,067
Liberty	7	93	0	0
Wakulla	14	524	5	45



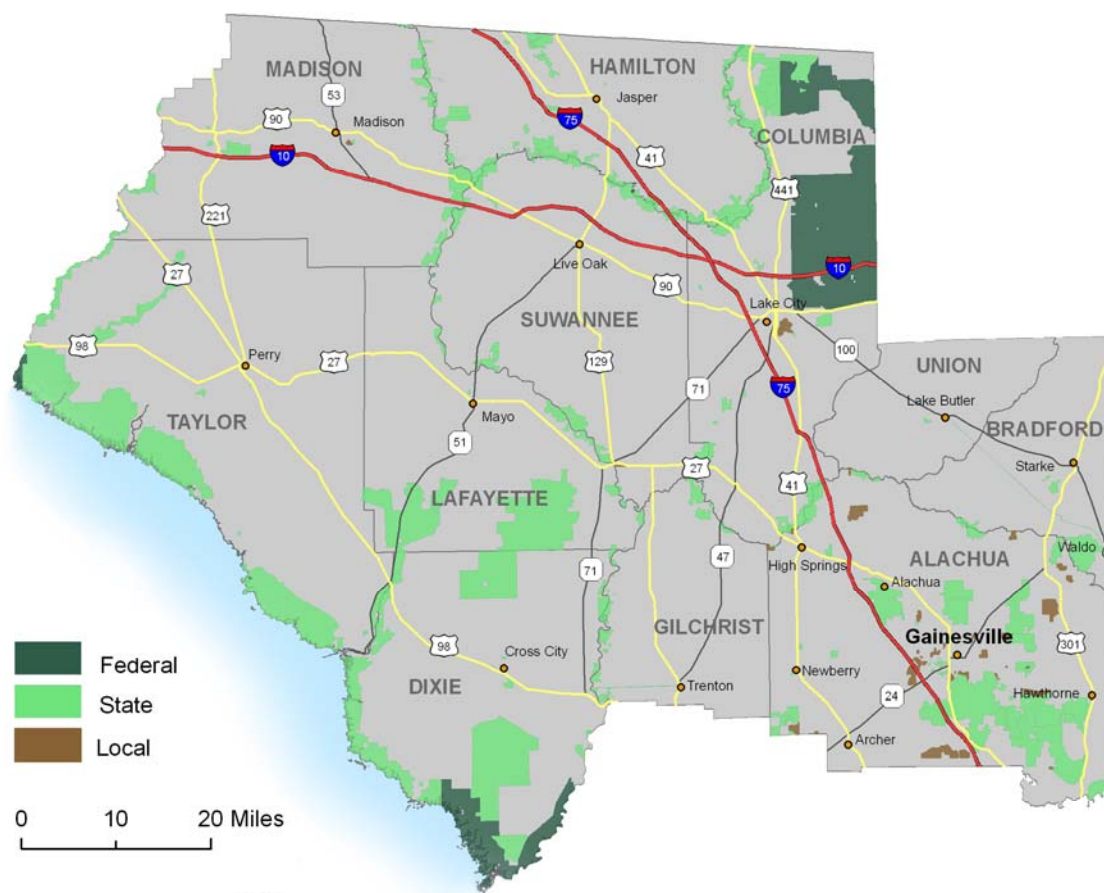
J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park, Leon County

North Central Florida Region

The North Central Florida Region encompasses 7,245 square miles. It contains 11 counties and 33 municipalities located on the *Coastal Lowlands* and *Central Highlands* physiographic regions. The coastal counties of Dixie and Taylor share approximately 60 miles of coastline that contains large expanses of seagrasses, shallow banks and tidal marshlands along the upper Gulf of Mexico.

Estuaries formed by the region's many rivers and creeks support an excellent fishery, which contributes to the area's significance as a recreational resource. The inland counties of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Union are a mix of forested uplands, agricultural lands and wetlands crisscrossed by rivers and streams. The region's dominant hydrological system is the Suwannee River, which originates in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia and flows 245 miles through this region before it empties

Figure 4.3.1
Public Conservation Lands





Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, Alachua County

into the Gulf. The Suwannee and its several main tributaries are dotted with towns, parks and trails from which visitors can explore the river and its surrounding areas by canoe, kayak, bicycle, horse, automobile or on foot.

Economy

Agriculture, forest industries and fishing have provided employment for the region's population for generations. Changes in many traditional resource-based industries have resulted in job losses and worker displacement. All of the counties in the region with the exception of Alachua County are designated as "Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern" and qualify for state economic development incentives. Due to its abundance of high quality natural resources, the region is positioning itself as a nature-based tourism destination under the theme of "Original Florida." Alachua County, home

to the University of Florida, is the most urbanized of the 11 counties in the region. With the highest enrollment in the State University System, the university and its many institutes, research units and medical facilities is a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurial activity that spills over into the surrounding communities.

Tourism in the North Central region is beginning to play an increasingly important role in the economy. Perhaps the largest tourist draw in the region is the University of Florida. Successful sports and athletic programs draw thousands of out-of-state visitors to these widely attended games. In addition, the Suwannee River, one of the best-known rivers in the United States, draws visitors year-round.

Table 4.3.1
Current and Projected Population
North Central Florida Region

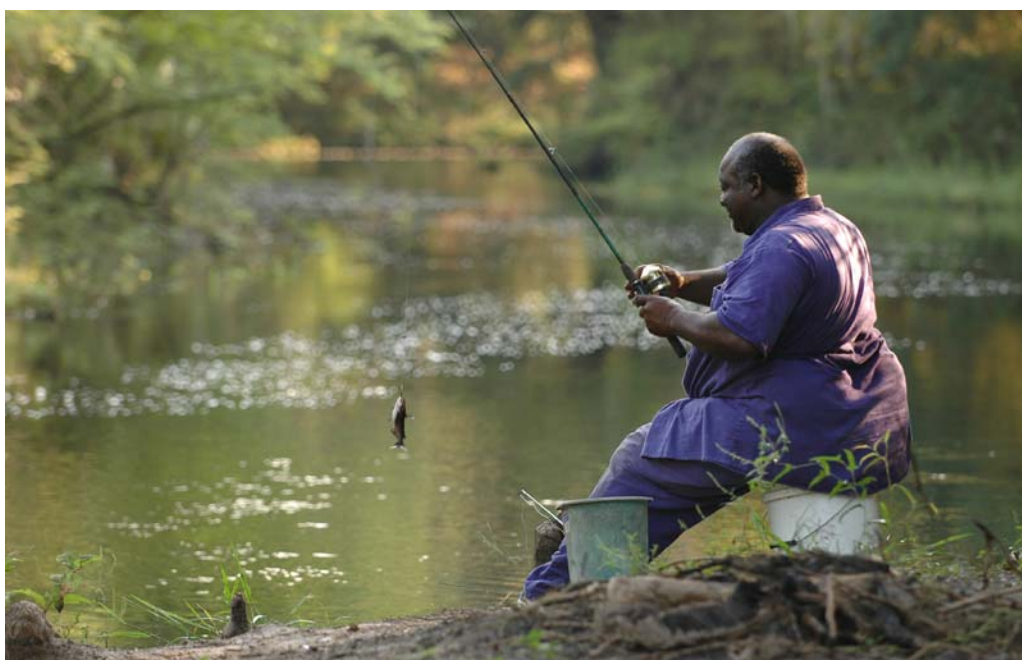
County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Alachua	217,955	247,561	253,400	269,900	283,200	29.9
Bradford	26,088	29,055	29,600	30,900	32,200	23.4
Columbia	56,513	65,373	67,700	72,700	77,300	36.8
Dixie	13,827	15,808	16,300	17,500	18,600	34.5
Gilchrist	14,437	17,106	17,800	19,700	21,500	48.9
Hamilton	13,327	14,705	14,900	15,400	15,800	18.6
Lafayette	7,022	8,215	9,200	10,100	10,500	49.5
Madison	18,733	19,944	20,300	21,000	21,700	15.8
Suwannee	34,844	39,608	42,800	46,100	49,100	40.9
Taylor	19,256	22,516	22,900	23,900	24,800	28.8
Union	13,442	15,722	16,100	16,900	17,600	30.9
Region Totals	435,444	495,613	511,000	544,100	572,300	31.4

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Demographics

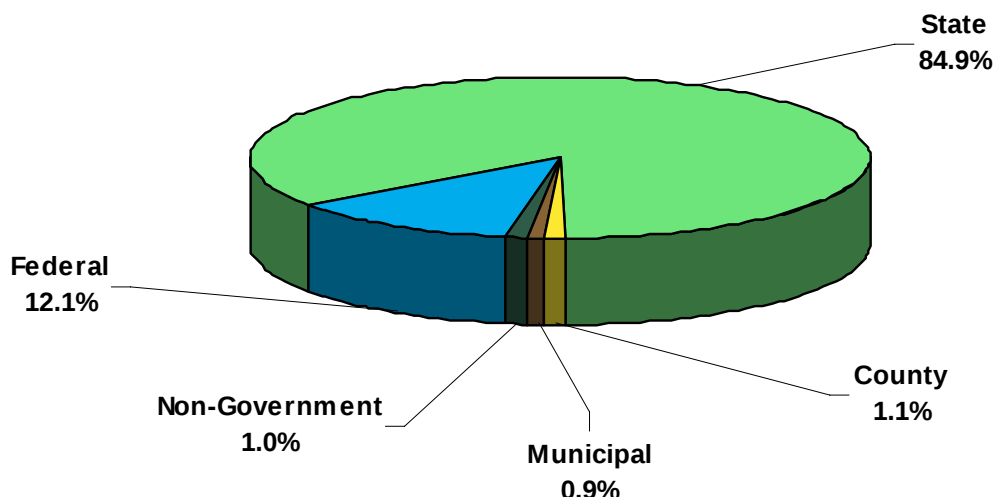
In 2007, the North Central region contained 2.7 percent of Florida's total population, reaching 496,000. Mid-range projections estimate 572,000 residents by 2020, a 31

percent increase from 2000 census figures. Population densities range from 15 persons per square mile in Lafayette County to 283 persons per square mile in Alachua County. Table 4.3.1 displays projected population growth for the region through 2020.



Steinhatchee River, Dixie County

Figure 4.3.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
North Central Florida Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

The diversity of this region's natural, cultural and historic resources supports a wide and diverse array of recreation opportunities. Many of these are water-based, owing to the vast marshes, estuaries and seagrasses of the Gulf coast and the largest concentration of first magnitude freshwater springs in the entire world.

More than 1.1 million acres are available for outdoor recreation in the North Central region. Three federally-administered management areas are located in the region. The Osceola National Forest, Lower Suwannee River National Wildlife Refuge and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge provide 136,767 acres of land for low-intensity outdoor recreation. Nearly 115,000 acres of the feder-

ally-managed lands are available for public hunting.

State agencies provide more than 960,000 acres of outdoor recreation lands in the region, or 85 percent of the total recreation acreage. Most of the state-managed sites were acquired by the Suwannee River Water Management District. The region's 17 state parks provide more than 46,000 acres of land. The state is the largest provider of recreational trails in the region with 205 miles of unpaved bicycle trails, 151 miles of equestrian trails, 354 miles of hiking trails, 104 miles of nature trails and 38 miles of off-highway vehicles trails. State agencies also provide 219 tent campsites, 213 RV/trailer campsites and 27 cabins, among other facilities.



Alachua County Fairgrounds, Alachua County

Local governments provide 392 individual outdoor recreation sites in the region containing over 22,000 acres. County and municipal governments account for 90 percent of the baseball fields, 83 percent of the basketball goals and 85 percent of the football fields in the region. Local governments also provide the majority of museums, paved bicycle trails, and both freshwater and saltwater shoreline fishing facilities.

The private commercial sector plays a vital role in providing recreation areas and facilities. Non-governmental providers make more than 11,000 acres available for public uses at 108 sites. Private campgrounds and fish camps play a particularly important role in providing water access facilities, including 28 boat ramps, 5,560 campsites and 288

rental cabins. The private sector also provides many user-oriented sites, including swimming pools, golf courses and tennis courts. Some of these sites are provided by private forest management operations.

The Suwannee River Wilderness Trail is the centerpiece of a large-scale, cooperatively managed recreational resource that ties together federal, state and water management district lands in partnership with local governments and private sector businesses in the region. The trail consists of a series of recreational hubs and more remote river camps spaced a day's paddle apart. Visitors can enjoy the Suwannee on a trip of a day or two, or travel the entire 170-mile length of the trail from the town of White Springs to the river's mouth at the town of Suwannee.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.3.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
North Central Florida Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	4	136	217	175	108	640
LAND	Acres	136,767	389,737	11,721	9,660	11,072	558,956
WATER	Acres	100	572,166	775	573	219	573,833
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	136,867	961,902	12,496	10,232	11,291	1,132,788
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	0	27	0	0	288	315
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	25	219	64	15	1,370	1,692
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	0	213	125	6	4,190	4,534
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	1	39	21	4	5	70
COMM MEM STRUCTURES	Structures	0	2	3	1	0	6
MUSEUMS	Museums	0	18	5	8	2	33
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	20	526	756	618	2,298	4,218
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	114,361	227,794	0	0	0	342,155
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	26.8	25.8	16.7	0.0	69.3
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	0.1	204.5	15.1	0.0	11.0	230.7
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	7.0	184.5	22.0	0.0	38.0	251.5
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	27.3	354.0	42.3	22.9	39.8	486.3
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	50.0	150.7	25.0	0.3	20.0	246.0
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	0.0	31.3	17.3	18.9	11	68.6
OHV TRAIL	Miles	200.0	38.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	238.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	3.0	103.8	45.5	31.9	22.7	206.9
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.5	1.4
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	1	25	84	6	28	144
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	2	28	93	7	49	179
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	2	2	2	15	21
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	120	90	2,520	3,175	5,905
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	722	0	0	722
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	0	0	13	13
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	0	3	2	0	305	310
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	0	8	7	7	7	29
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	0	1,040	580	1,514	238	3,372
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	2	7	7	0	9	25
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	2	7	8	0	10	27
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	2	0	0	0	6	8
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	20	0	0	0	515	535
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	0	0	8	8
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	0	0	0	0	236	236
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	1	0	1	0	0	2
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	50	0	700	0	0	750
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	10	83	104	13	210
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	0	30	212	206	53	501
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	0	7	93	115	37	252
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	5	34	32	7	78
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	1	5	6
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	0	8	8
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	0	2	2
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	0	0	0	18	198	216
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	1	37	11	8	57
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	0	16	102	42	10	170
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	0	2	2	8	36	48
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	0	18	17	37	1	73
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	4	3	16	27	50
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	0	50	41	71	34	196
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	30	28	16	10	84

Table 4.3.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
North Central Florida Region
2007

Federal Areas

National Forests	<u>Acres</u>	Suwannee River Wilderness Trail	<u>Miles</u>
Osceola (Columbia County portion)*	108,300	Trail	170
National Wildlife Refuges		University of Florida	<u>Acres</u>
Lower Suwannee River (Dixie County portion)*	27,866	Austin Cary Memorial Forest	2,083
St. Marks (Taylor County portion)*	681	Water Management District Lands	
		St. Johns River WMD	

State Areas

Aquatic Preserves			
Big Bend Seagrasses (Taylor and Dixie County portion)	545,000	Suwannee River WMD	
St. Martins Marsh	23,000	47 Bridge	392
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>	Alapahoochee	1,075
Old Florida Heritage Highway	48	Allardt	443
Greenways and Trails		Allen Mill Pond	608
Palatka to Lake Butler Trail (Bradford and Union County Segment)	20	Avoca	126
Nature Coast Trail (Dixie and Gilchrist County segment)	23	Bay Creek	2,233
State Forests	<u>Acres</u>	Belmont	93
Big Shoals*	1,629	Big Pine	128
Twin Rivers *	14,882	Blue Sink	710
State Parks		Branford Bend	1,025
Big Shoals	1,652	Cabbage Creek*	2,387
Devil's Millhopper	67	Cabbage Grove*	2,047
Dudley Farm	327	Camp Branch	200
Econfina River	4,528	Christian	338
Forest Capital	14	Cuba Bay	1,988
Ichetucknee Springs	2,534	Cypress Creek *	1,328
Lafayette Blue Springs	195	Cypress Creek South	21
Madison Blue Spring	44	Duck Pond	151
Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings	72	Falling Creek	504
O'Leno	1,714	Falmouth Spring	276
Paynes Prairie	20,795	Fox Trail	199
Peacock Springs	278	Gar Pond	877
River Rise	4,482	Goose Pasture*	1,060
San Felasco Hammock	6,986	Hart Springs Estate	99
Stephen Foster	846	Hartsfield	326
Troy Spring	78	Holton Creek*	2,531
Suwannee River	1,934	Hopewell	550
		Hunter Creek	276
		Jennings Bluff	500
		Jerry Branch	519
		Jones Mill Creek*	2,884

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Table 4.3.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
North Central Florida Region
2007
 (continued)

<i>Suwannee River WMD (continued)</i>	<u>Acres</u>	<i>Suwannee River WMD (continued)</i>	<u>Acres</u>
Lamont*	804	Sneads Lake	150
Levings	193	Steinhatchee Falls	1,766
Lindsey	876	Steinhatchee Rise	3,559
Linville	173	Steinhatchee Springs*	20,909
Little Creek	558	Sugar Creek	670
Little River*	2,203	Sunnyvale	540
Little Shoals	400	Suwannee Springs	135
Log Landing	1,147	Suwannee Street	624
Mallory Swamp*	30,501	Swift Creek	319
Mattair Springs	1,188	Trillium Slopes	60
McAlpin	1,045	Troy Springs *	1,810
Mt. Gilead*	2,109	Tyree	213
Mud Swamp	837	White Springs	277
Natural Well Branch	3,713	Woods Ferry	1,094
New Pine Landing	43	Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife & Environmental Areas, and Mitigation Parks	
Osteen	203		
Owens Spring	474		
Peacock Slough	1,174		
Purvis Landing	335	Aucilla (Taylor County portion)*	1,000
R.O. Ranch	2,500	Big Bend*	71,813
Rocky Creek	251	Fort White	1,329
Ruth Springs	649	Grove Park*	19,637
Sandlin Bay*	4,128	PotashCorp-White Springs*	2,000
Santa Fe Swamp*	5,708	Raiford*	16,000
Sapp Landing	433	San Pedro Bay*	21,760
Shelly	812	Suwannee Ridge*	1,429

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Reported County and Municipal Areas

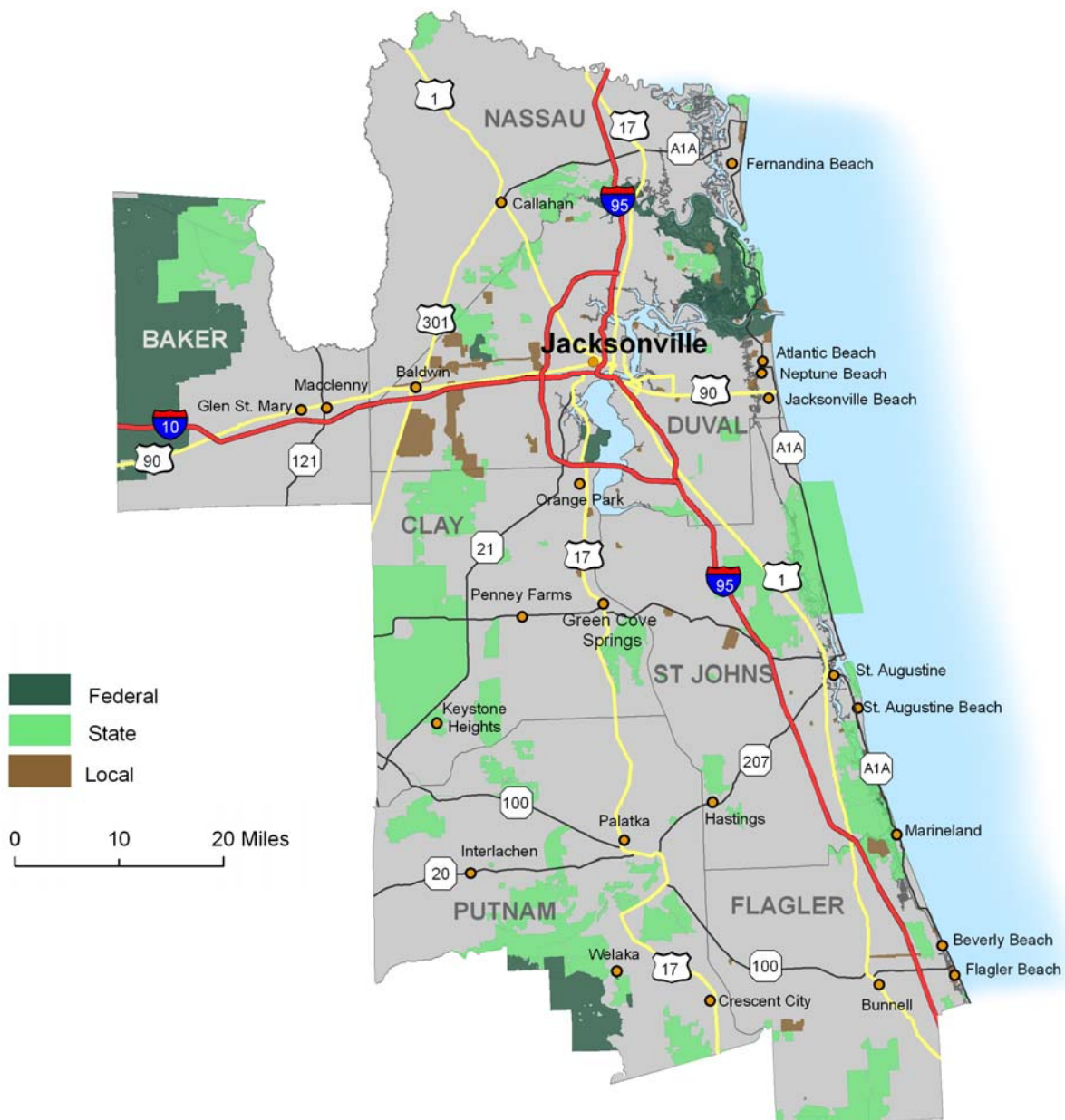
	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Alachua	69	9,354	98	9,097
Bradford	9	17	17	64
Columbia	18	1,130	19	394
Dixie	25	193	5	10
Gilchrist	17	303	7	29
Hamilton	13	64	6	19
Lafayette	17	618	1	4
Madison	13	222	7	45
Suwannee	18	289	4	24
Taylor	11	176	7	67
Union	8	100	4	487

Northeast Florida Region

The Northeast Florida Region encompasses 5,096 square miles in seven counties located across the *Coastal Lowlands* and *Central Highlands*. The coastal counties of Nassau, Duval, St. Johns and Flagler extend 140 miles along the Atlantic Ocean from the

Georgia border to the southern border of Flagler County. Five primary barrier islands offer miles of sandy beach access and vast marshlands, open water and small islands of coastal scrub and hammock vegetation.

Figure 4.4.1
Public Conservation Lands





Pellicer Creek, St. Johns County

The inland counties of Baker, Clay and Putnam extend north to south along a central ridge of continuously high ground that straddles the boundary between the *Northern Highland* and the *Trail Ridge* physiographic regions. The *Trail Ridge* is a relict barrier island dominated by well-drained sandhill soils, remnants of a geological era when these areas formed the Atlantic coastline.

The region is crisscrossed by rivers, creeks and blackwater streams, and its river basins were critical factors in shaping the state's history and development. The region's dominant system is the lower St. Johns River. The St. Johns, originating in central Florida, is the longest river lying completely within the state and flows northward for 310 miles before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean at the town of Mayport. After merging with the Nassau River, it forms a vast and highly productive estuarine system of salt marshes and tidal creeks. The St. Mary's River flows in a southerly and then eastern direction from the Okefenokee Swamp, dipping into Florida through Baker and Nassau counties before moving northward to form the state border and empty into the Atlantic at Kings Bay. The Northeast re-

gion's outstanding natural and cultural resources support excellent outdoor recreation opportunities, many of which are water-based.

Economy

Consolidated Duval County/City of Jacksonville is one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States, in terms of size. It is the economic engine for this region and its dynamic mix of business and industrial development is unique in Florida. Anchored by an excellent airport with extensive domestic flights and one of Florida's busiest deep-water ports, this region continues to rely on a mix of natural resources, industrial development, military bases, history and culture, and a sophisticated hospitality infrastructure that is attractive to visitors.

The region has a dynamic tourism industry. The success of tourism in this region is due to the amenities that a large metropolitan area can offer, such as downtown areas, sporting events, concerts, restaurants and special events. A large metropolitan area combined with nearby, yet isolated beaches,

Table 4.4.1
Current and Projected Population
Northeast Florida Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Baker	22,259	25,623	26,400	28,400	30,200	35.7
Clay	140,814	184,644	194,700	221,200	245,800	74.6
Duval	778,879	897,597	922,800	989,900	1,051,800	35.0
Flagler	49,832	93,568	103,500	129,400	153,800	208.6
Nassau	57,663	69,569	72,500	80,100	87,200	51.2
Putnam	70,423	74,799	75,800	78,400	80,800	14.7
St. Johns	123,135	176,935	185,800	216,800	245,800	99.6
Region Totals	1,243,005	1,522,735	1,581,500	1,744,200	1,895,400	52.5

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

world class golf courses and the largest river in Florida provide tourists and residents with a large variety of activities from which to choose.

Demographics

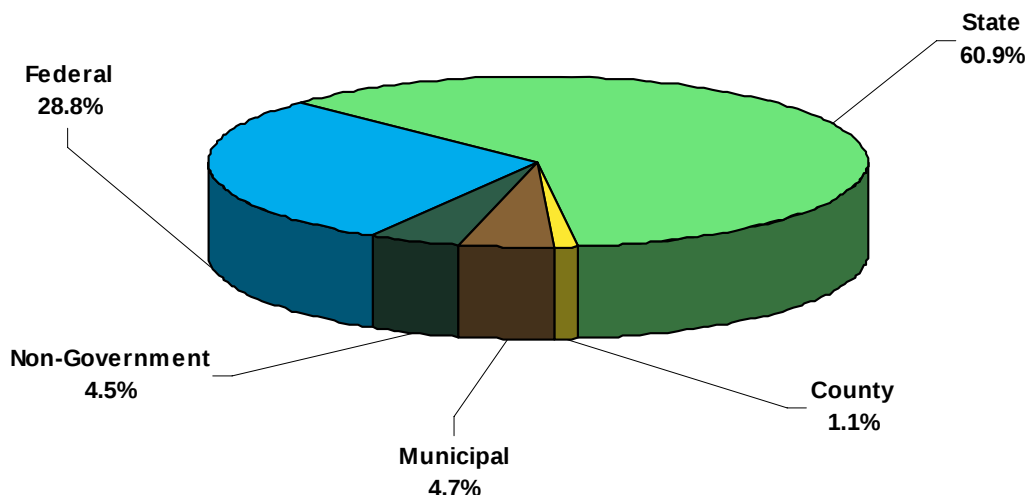
The Northeast region's population represented eight percent of Florida's total population in 2007, reaching 1.5 million. Mid-

range projections estimate 652,400 new residents by 2020, (a 52 percent increase from 2000), making this region one of the fastest-growing in Florida. Population density ranges from a low of 44 persons per square mile in Baker County to a high of 1,160 persons per square mile in Duval County. Table 4.4.1 displays the current and projected population for the seven-county area through 2020.



*Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve,
Nassau County*

Figure 4.4.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
Northeast Florida Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

More than 730,000 acres of public and private outdoor recreation land and water are located in the Northeast region. As shown in Figure 4.4.2, state agencies are the largest category of providers in terms of acreage, accounting for over 60 percent of all recreational acreage. Some 448,000 acres are provided at 76 separate areas, variously designated as state parks, state forests and wildlife management areas. These areas provide 19 miles of saltwater beach, 221,917 acres of hunting lands, 263 miles of hiking trails, five freshwater piers and two saltwater piers.

Federal agencies provide nearly 29 percent of the region's recreational acreage, totaling 212,295 acres, at seven primary management areas. The region contains portions of the Ocala and Osceola National Forests and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, as well as four units of the National Park Sys-



Anastasia State Park, St. Johns County



Golf Course, Duval County

tem. Over half of the federally-administered acreage is available for public hunting. In addition to hunting, the federal agencies provide three freshwater piers, nine commemorative structures and 248 saltwater marina slips, among other facilities.

County and municipal governments administer 42,433 acres of land and water at 895 separate outdoor recreation areas. User-oriented activities are a major source of recreation for residents and tourists in the region. Local governments provide 94 percent of the baseball fields, 84 percent of the basketball goals and 92 percent of the football fields in the region. Local governments are the largest providers of many resource-based facilities, including bicycle, jogging and nature trails, freshwater and saltwater boat ramps, and freshwater and saltwater shoreline fishing facilities.

The private sector plays an important role as well. Private suppliers provide 205 recreation areas and 33,344 total acres. They account for 3,855 RV/trailer campsites, 590 cabins and 384 tent campsites and supply more freshwater and saltwater marinas than any other category. In addition, 88 percent of the region's golf courses are provided by the private sector.

Table 4.4.2 shows the Northeast region's outdoor recreation resource facilities by provider. Table 4.4.3 displays outdoor recreation opportunities provided or managed by national, state and municipal entities.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.4.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Northeast Florida Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	15	76	255	640	205	1,191
LAND	Acres	258,205	345,556	7,971	33,982	31,992	677,706
WATER	Acres	6,715	112,371	65	415	1,332	120,899
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	251,490	458,927	8,036	34,397	33,344	786,194
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	0	16	34	5	590	645
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	88	514	182	134	384	1,302
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	32	331	90	356	3,855	4,664
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	246	51	13	24	9	343
COMMEMORATIVE STRUCTURES	Structures	9	4	0	9	1	23
MUSEUMS	Museums	5	12	8	16	17	58
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	281	831	829	1,985	1,095	5,021
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	123,477	221,917	0	2,896	0	348,290
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	2.5	0.0	46.1	22.1	0.0	70.7
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	12	138.0	22.5	64.2	2.0	227.9
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	5.1	158.8	3.8	10	8.0	176.7
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	44.2	263.6	54.4	72.7	18.7	453.6
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	0.0	136.3	33.5	32.3	5.0	207.1
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	5.5	5.0	26.8	60.1	3.5	100.9
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	192.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	192.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	4.2	66.7	29.0	84.4	2.0	186.3
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	14
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	6	13	38	63	35	155
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	7	15	45	67	42	176
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	3	8	24	32	67
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	1,740	1,411	2,518	2,827	8,496
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	3	4	47	54
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	0	0	173	107	2,246	2,526
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	3	5	19	26	11	64
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	75	285	2,135	3,254	2,252	8,001
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	16	18.8	13.2	16.5	10	511
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	0	5	20	15	14	54
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	0	4	24	26	15	69
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	16	14	3	7	40
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	5,648	2,750	455	300	9,153
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	1,250	6	50	5,000	0	6,306
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	1	0	1	4	20	26
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	248	0	0	243	1,801	2,292
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	0	3	10	4	5	22
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	0	8,150	1,589	3,500	1,566	14,805
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	16	6	235	318	12	587
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	9	30	255	312	71	677
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	22	10	130	275	31	468
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	3	3	64	94	7	171
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	1	0	0	6	53	60
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	3	0	3	3	4	13
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	0	4	4
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	45	0	27	135	1,029	1,236
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	2	3	16	5	26
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	2	11	39	60	22	134
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	3	3	23	33	75	137
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	6	10	34	13	18	81
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	0	5	50	46	101
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	28	23	109	203	254	617
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	1	3	31	23	3	61

Table 4.4.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Northeast Florida Region
2007

Federal Areas

National Estuarine Research Reserves*	<u>Acres</u>	Greenways and Trails (continued)	<u>Miles</u>
Guana Tolomato Matanzas	55,000	Palatka to Lake Butler Trail (Putnam and Clay County Segment)	16
National Forests		State Forests	<u>Acres</u>
Ocala (Putnam County portion)**	23,622	Belmore	8,736
Osceola (Baker County portion)**	120,055	Cary **	13,044
National Parks		Etoniah Creek **	8,702
Castillo San Marcos National Monument	25	Four Creeks	10,616
Fort Caroline National Monument	125	Jennings **	23,995
Fort Matanzas National Monument	299	John Bethea**	37,736
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve	46,000	Matanzas **	4,668
National Wildlife Refuges		Ralph E. Simmons **	3,638
Okefenokee (Florida portion)	4,024	Watson Island	506
State Areas		Welaka **	2,288
Aquatic Preserves		State Parks	
Fort Clinch	9,000	Amelia Island	230
Guana River	51,500	Anastasia	1,644
Nassau River-St. Johns River Marshes	55,000	Big Talbot Island	1,708
Pellicer Creek	605	Bulow Creek (Flagler County portion)	406
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>	Bulow Plantation Ruins	151
A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway	72	Dunns Creek	6,235
Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway (Putnam County segment)	14	Faver-Dykes	6,046
William Bartram Scenic & Historic Trail	17	Fernandina Plaza	1
Greenways and Trails	<u>Acres</u>	Fort Clinch	1,436
Jacksonville-Baldwin Rail Trail	172	Fort George Island	659
Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (Putnam County portion)	18,000	Fort Mose	41
West Jacksonville Greenway Connector	95	Gamble Rogers	134
		George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier	2
		Haw Creek (Flagler and Putnam County portion)	1,335
		Little Talbot Island	1,916
		Mike Roess Gold Head Branch	2,365
		Olustee Battlefield	691
		Pumpkin Hill Creek	3,967
		Ravine	146

* National Estuarine Research Reserves are designated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas.

**Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Table 4.4.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Northeast Florida Region
2007
 (continued)

State Parks (continued)	<u>Acres</u>	<i>St. Johns River WMD (continued)</i>	<u>Acres</u>
Washington Oaks	426	Murphy Creek	1,842
Yellow Bluff Fort	2	Pellicer Creek	3,865
University of Florida		Rice Creek	4,202
Ordway-Swisher Preserve	9,100	Stokes Landing	274
Water Management District Lands		Twelve Mile Swamp	378
<i>St. Johns River WMD</i>		Wildlife Management Areas,	
Bayard**	10,320	Wildlife & Environmental Areas	
Black Creek Ravines	965	and Mitigation Parks	
Crescent Lake (Flagler County	4,529	Branan Field Mitigation Park	386
portion)		Camp Blanding**	56,000
Deep Creek North	4,483	Caravelle Ranch (Putnam County	13,373
Dunns Creek**	3,182	portion)	
Graham Swamp	3,084	Nassau**	13,892
Julington-Durbin Creek	2,006	Relay**	19,672
Moses Creek	2,042	Twelve Mile Swamp**	19,696
		Guana River**	9,815

**Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

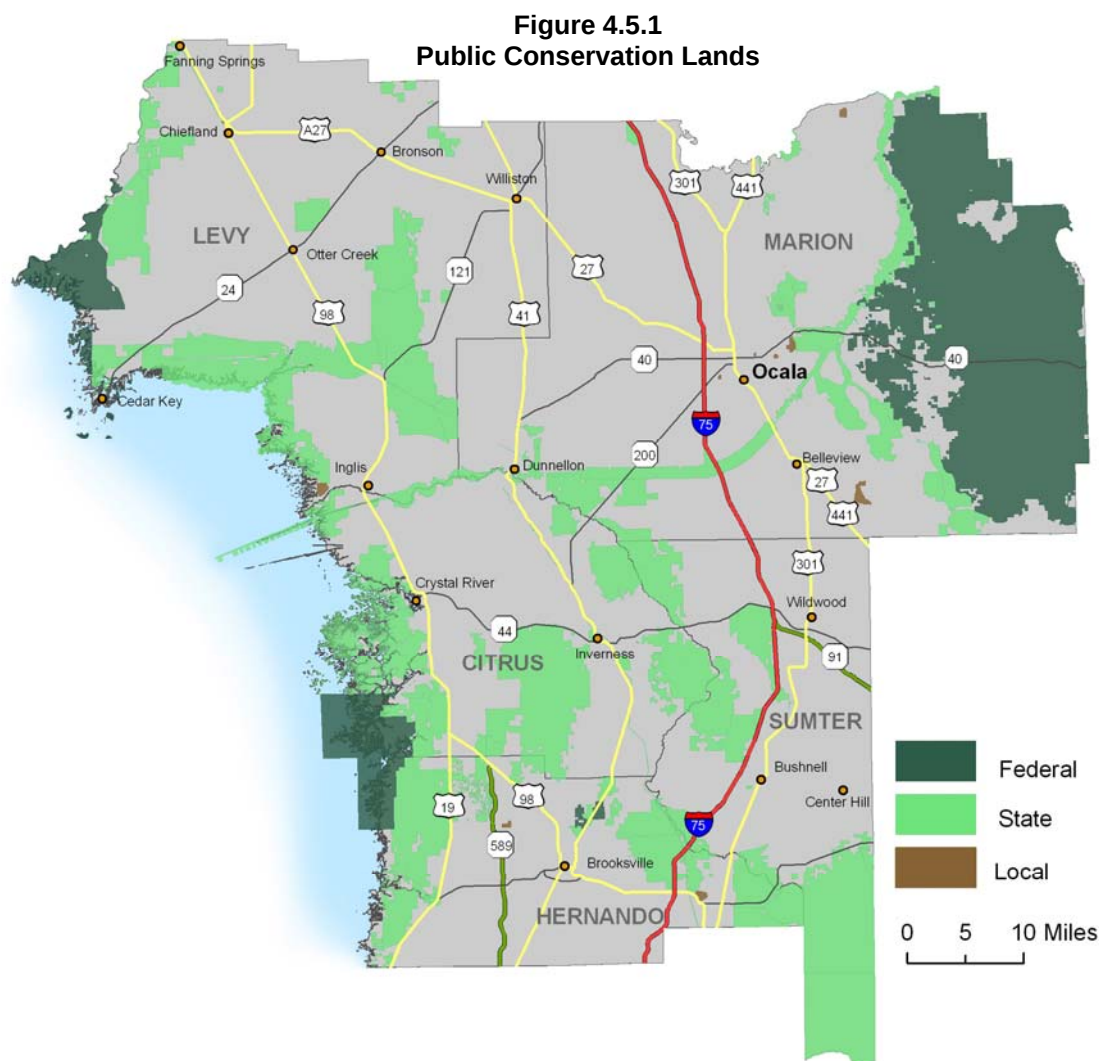
Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Baker	12	1,672	3	12
Clay	42	1,525	9	51
Duval/City of Jacksonville			515	33,726
Flagler	62	2,192	27	193
Nassau	39	236	19	598
Putnam	24	135	51	391
St. Johns	76	1,650	16	99

Withlacoochee Region

The Withlacoochee Region in west central Florida encompasses 5,017 square miles. It is comprised of five counties and 21 incorporated municipalities. The coastal areas of Citrus, Hernando and Levy counties are predominantly lowlands consisting of intermittent swamps, saltwater marshes and islands along the Gulf of Mexico. The inland portions of these counties and the landlocked counties of Marion and Sumter feature gently rolling hills covered with woodlands, agricultural areas, freshwater lakes, rivers and springs.

Although the region has some 106 miles of coastline, it has only 4.2 miles of sandy beach fronting on the Gulf of Mexico, of which less than one-half mile is available for public recreation. What the region lacks in naturally occurring saltwater beach resources is made up for by its extremely diverse coastal and aquatic areas, which are among the most remote and pristine in Florida. These resources and others in the region provide excellent opportunities for many outdoor recreation activities including camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, birdwatching, fishing, boating, diving and swimming.





Cross Florida Greenway Land Bridge, Marion County

Economy

Rapid population growth is the primary factor in the region's economy. In-migration has not only changed the character of the region, but has also altered its economic base. Many traditional natural resource-based jobs in agriculture, fishing, forestry and mining have been displaced over several decades, and today the economy is dominated by services and retail trade. Marion County, known as "the horse capital of the world", has more horses than any other county in the United States, with 45 to 50 different breeds represented in the area. Nearly 29,000 residents are employed in the county's thoroughbred and equestrian industry. In addition, the development of large retirement communities has brought new growth to the area, but at a cost of placing increasingly greater demands on local governments for public services of all types.

Nature-based tourism is a major component of the region's economy and relies heavily on its resource-based public outdoor recreation lands. Major recreation resources in the region consist of state parks and forests, a portion of the Ocala National Forest and the wildlife-rich coastal areas. Visitors can easily access the region through Interstate 75 and major federal and state highways.



Private Hunting Land, Levy County

Table 4.5.1
Current and Projected Population
Withlacoochee Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Citrus	118,085	140,024	145,000	158,200	170,300	44.2
Hernando	130,802	162,193	169,100	187,800	205,100	56.8
Levy	34,450	40,045	41,400	45,200	48,600	41.1
Marion	258,916	325,023	340,500	381,400	419,300	61.9
Sumter	53,345	89,771	97,400	117,400	136,100	155.1
Region Totals	595,598	757,056	793,400	890,000	979,400	64.4

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Demographics

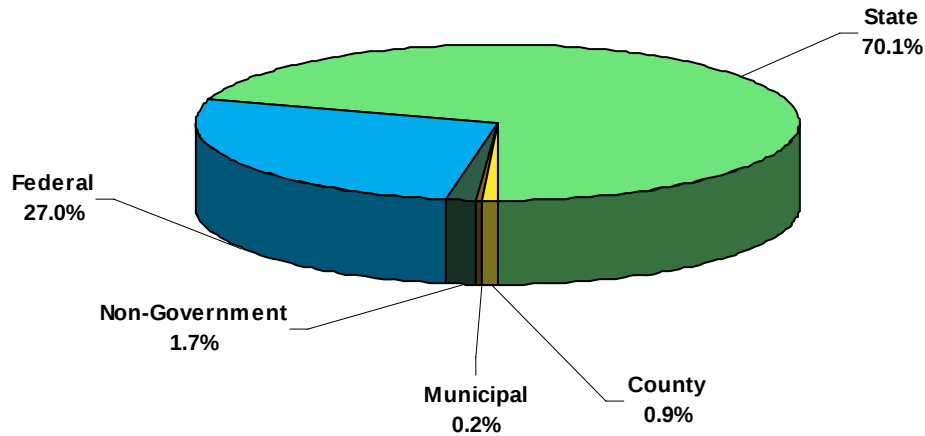
In 2007, population in the five-county region reached 757,000, or four percent of Florida's population. Projections estimate 979,000 residents by 2020, a 64 percent increase from the 2000 census. Persons aged 65 and older make up more than 25 percent of

the region's population, while the statewide percentage of this age category is 17 percent. Population density ranges from 36 people per square mile in rural Levy County to 339 people per square mile in Hernando County. Table 4.5.1 displays current and projected population for the region through the year 2020.



Ocala National Forest, Marion County

Figure 4.5.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
Withlacoochee Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

The freshwater resources of the Withlacoochee Region include more than 800 lakes and rivers of various sizes. Lakes in the region may be small enough to swim across or large enough to support power boats, water skiing and sailing. The Tsala Apopka chain of lakes near Inverness links several large lakes and marshes into a continuous body of water more than 20 miles in length. Nine first magnitude springs are found in the region. Eight of these are contained in federal or state outdoor recreation areas. Silver Springs, in Ocala, is among the largest and most famous in the United States. The region lacks the saltwater beach resources of other regions in Florida, with less than one-half mile of beach in public and private outdoor recreation areas. Nevertheless, the numerous islands and miles of coastal shoreline offer a full range of other saltwater recreation opportunities.

Large-scale outdoor recreation resources in the region include most of the seven tracts

that comprise the Withlacoochee State Forest. They also include Marion County's portion of the Ocala National Forest, the Cedar Keys, Chassahowitzka, Crystal River and Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuges and many state parks, preserves, wildlife management areas and aquatic preserves. The Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, another of the region's major outdoor recreation resources, connects Ocala National Forest to the Gulf of Mexico. Significant historic resources exist at Dade Battlefield and Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic State Parks and at many state and local museums.

Over one million acres of land and water are available for outdoor recreation in the Withlacoochee Region. As shown in Figure 4.5.2, 98 percent of the region's outdoor recreation acreage is supplied by public agencies. Federally-provided outdoor recreation sites make up 27 percent of the region's total supply of outdoor recreation land and water. Nearly 300,000 acres of hunting land are provided within the region's national forests and wildlife refuges. Federal agencies are



Chassahowitzka River Campground and Recreation Area, Citrus County

also major providers of canoe trails, RV/trailer camping and shoreline fishing facilities.

As shown in Figure 4.5.2, state agencies are the largest provider of outdoor recreation acreage, supplying 70 percent of the total acreage in the region. State agencies are the largest public provider of tent camping, RV/trailer camping, hunting and recreational trails. Residents and visitors can access 374 miles of hiking trails, 259 miles of unpaved bicycle trails, 170 miles of equestrian trails and 30 miles of OHV trails on lands managed by state agencies.

The Withlacoochee Region's county and municipal governments play an important role in providing recreation opportunities. As in other regions, the local governments pro-

vide virtually all the opportunities for user-oriented types of recreation. Local governments provide a combined total of 330 recreation sites containing more than 13,500 acres. These provide 289 public baseball/softball fields, 454 basketball goals, 97 football fields and 145 tennis courts. Local agencies are the region's largest provider of jogging trails and freshwater and saltwater shoreline fishing facilities.

The private sector provides only 1.7 percent of the total recreation acreage of the region, but nearly one-third of all recreation areas. In addition, commercial businesses provide the majority of the region's camping, picnicking, freshwater boating, fishing and golf courses. A total of 645 cabins, 12,221 campsites, 60 freshwater boat ramps and 1,267 freshwater marina slips are provided by private commercial operations.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.5.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Withlacoochee Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	6	68	214	116	187	591
LAND	Acres	315,619	519,499	9,561	2,589	20,922	868,190
WATER	Acres	15,150	341,675	1,383	57	193	358,458
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	330,769	861,179	10,944	2,646	21,140	1,226,678
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	2	23	4	0	645	674
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	85	403	221	0	2,614	3,323
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	400	514	113	0	9,607	10,634
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	3	57	6	18	7	91
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	0	3	7	0	1	11
MUSEUMS	Museums	0	17	4	0	6	27
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	77	555	887	419	5,315	7,253
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	274,629	287,355	3,400	0	0	565,384
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	60.9	19.3	4.1	15.0	99.3
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	19	259.0	35.6	16.6	10	314.1
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	54.0	210.0	315	0.0	18.0	313.5
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	62.4	373.9	67.7	13.4	47.0	564.4
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	102.0	169.8	17.3	15.0	4.0	308.1
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	0.0	14.7	50.7	15.3	0.5	81.2
OHV TRAIL	Miles	157.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	187.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	14	172.8	47.6	15.5	22.0	259.3
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.8	1.6
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	17	20	48	6	60	151
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	18	22	58	7	63	168
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	1	4	19	5	46	75
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	300	867	1,309	1,050	5,355	8,881
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	0	5	5
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	1	0	0	0	45	46
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	12	19	0	0	1,267	1,298
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	2	3	15	4	10	34
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	200	1,150	712	818	1,575	4,455
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	1	0	15	2	2	20
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	1	0	19	2	2	24
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	0	4	0	4	8
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	0	1,020	0	0	1,020
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	1,830	0	0	1,830
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	1	1	4	6
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	0	6	39	2	76	123
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	2	0	5	0	2	9
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	800	0	1,115	0	120	2,035
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	5	169	120	13	307
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	0	3	367	87	25	482
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	0	7	130	54	38	229
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	0	76	21	4	101
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	2	46	48
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	2	9	11
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	0	4	4
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	0	0	0	54	648	702
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	0	28	14	7	49
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	0	2	80	20	14	116
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	0	2	5	3	77	87
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	0	8	48	32	10	98
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	3	37	49	145	234
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	0	15	78	67	64	224
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	3	24	7	8	42

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.5.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Withlacoochee Region
2007

Federal Areas		State Parks (continued)	
	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
National Forests		Fanning Springs	198
Ocala (Marion County portion)*	275,600	Fort Cooper	738
National Wildlife Refuges		Homosassa Springs	200
Cedar Keys	891	Manatee Springs	2,443
Chasshowitzka*	31,000	Rainbow Springs	1,472
Crystal River	80	Silver River	4,230
Lower Suwannee River (Levy County portion)*	23,353	Waccasassa Bay	34,099
		Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins	5
State Areas		Water Management District Lands	
Aquatic Preserves		St. Johns River WMD	
Big Bend Seagrasses	300,000	Ocklawaha Prairie	6,077
Oklawaha River	4,600	Orange Creek *	3,512
Rainbow Springs	125	Sunnyhill	4,405
St. Martins Marsh	23,000	Southwest Florida WMD	
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>	Annutteliga Hammock	2,200
Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway (Marion County segment)	44	Chassahowitzka River and Coastal Swamp	5,676
Suncoast Scenic Parkway (Hernando County segment)	21	Flying Eagle*	10,950
Greenways and Trails	<u>Acres</u>	Green Swamp-East Tract* (Sumter County portion)	27,488
Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (Marion County segment)*	40,178	Halpata Tastanaki	8,146
	<u>Miles</u>	Lake Panasoffkee*	9,911
General James A. Van Fleet Trail (Sumter County segment)	4	Panasoffkee Outlet	1,118
Nature Coast Trail (Levy County segment)	9	Potts*	8,500
Withlacoochee Trail (Citrus and Hernando County segment)	44	Weekiwachee	11,206
State Forests	<u>Acres</u>	Suwannee River WMD	
Goethe *	51,851	Devil's Hammock*	7,636
Indian Lake	4,461	Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife & Environmental Areas and Mitigation Parks	
Ross Prairie *	3,527	Andrews *	3,800
Withlacoochee *	97,333	Caravelle Ranch (Marion County portion)*	13,422
State Parks		Chassahowitzka*	33,919
Cedar Key Museum	13	Chinsegut	828
Cedar Key Scrub*	5,022	Half Moon*	9,480
Crystal River Archaeological Site	62	Fort McCoy*	8,688
Crystal River	25,355	Gulf Hammock*	24,625
Dade Battlefield	81	Perry Oldenburg	368

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Table 4.5.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Withlacoochee Region
2007
(continued)

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Citrus	66	1,558	23	303
Hernando	40	1,727	1	88
Levy	17	3,679	26	914
Marion	72	2,583	50	1,130
Sumter	19	1,393	16	210



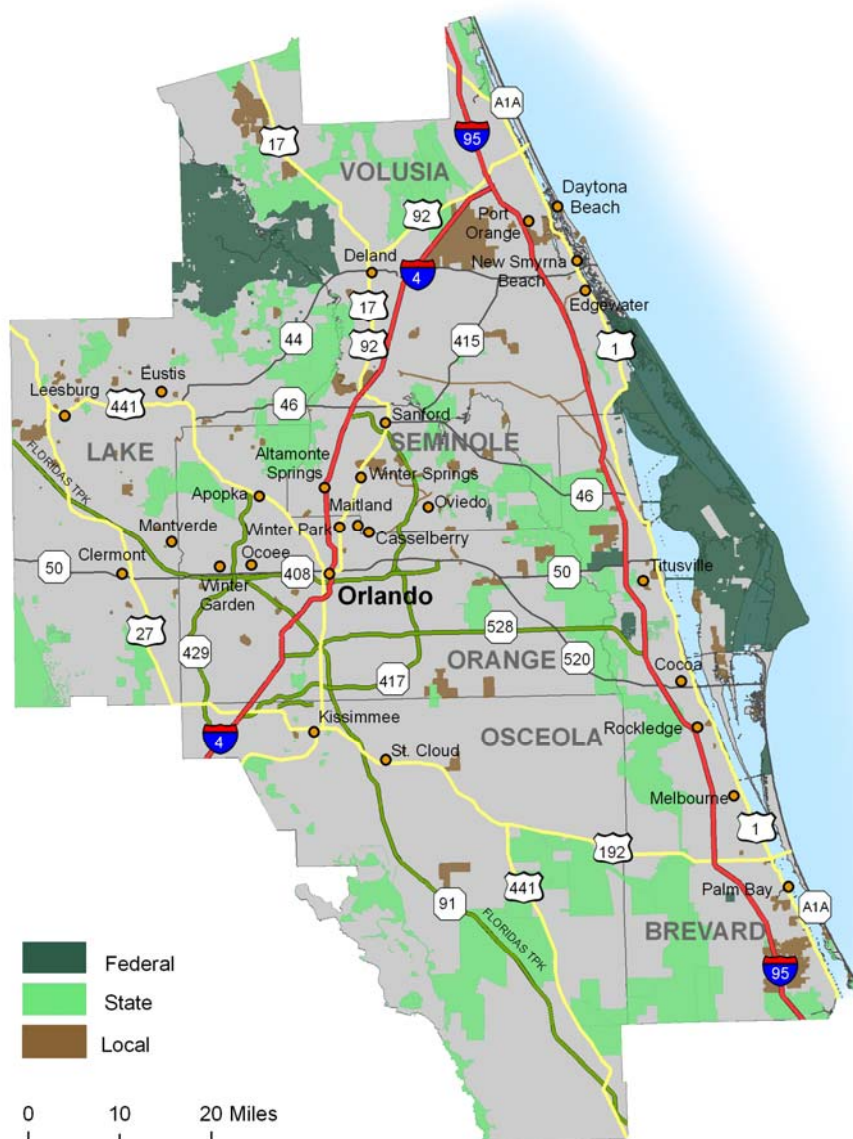
Silver Springs, Marion County

East Central Florida Region

The East Central Florida Region contains six counties and 67 municipalities spanning more than 7,000 square miles. The coastal counties of Volusia and Brevard extend 120 miles along the Atlantic Ocean from the southern border of Flagler County to the

northern border of Indian River County. Barrier islands and coastal lowlands define the coastal portions of the region, offering miles of sandy beach access on the Atlantic and thousands of acres of marshlands and open water in the region's tidal lagoons. Separating the mainland of Brevard County from the barrier islands, the Indian River Lagoon is

Figure 4.6.1
Public Conservation Lands





Lake Louisa State Park, Lake County

the most biologically diverse estuary in North America. The inland counties of Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole contain forests and prairies, lakes, streams and rivers where one can view ancient cypress and oaks, abundant native wildlife and Native American mounds, among many other diverse resources. The headwaters of the St. Johns, Tomoka, Kissimmee, Wekiva and Palatka Rivers offer abundant freshwater outdoor recreation opportunities.

The tourism infrastructure in the East Central region is the major source of employment and earnings. The region is best known for the major attractions that are centered around the Orlando-Kissimmee-St. Cloud area. It is also home to Florida's Space Coast and the city that is synonymous with space exploration and technology, Cape Canaveral. Daytona Beach, world famous for its wide beach, is also a center for automobile and motorcycle racing.

Economy

The economic base of the East Central region is a mix of tourism, agriculture, technology and services. Theme parks and sunshine have made the greater Orlando area famous as a world-class travel destination. The Orlando International Airport, a major global hub, handles millions of passengers each year who visit the region's nature-based recreation features, man-made attractions and cruise ships.

The East Central region contains more than 2,000 square miles of public conservation land. These areas play an increasingly important role in the region's tourism-based economy and quality of life. This network of land protects watersheds and maritime areas, sustains native plants and animal species, and connects wildlife corridors. It not only expands outdoor recreational activities for the region's population, but also stimulates nature and heritage based tourism.

Table 4.6.1
Current and Projected Population
East Central Florida Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Brevard	476,230	552,109	568,500	612,700	653,300	37.2
Lake	210,527	286,499	303,500	347,900	389,500	85.0
Orange	896,344	1,105,603	1,154,200	1,282,200	1,401,200	56.3
Osceola	172,493	266,123	287,500	343,200	395,500	129.3
Seminole	365,199	425,698	439,200	475,400	508,700	39.3
Volusia	443,343	508,014	522,500	561,000	596,500	34.5
Region Totals	2,564,136	3,144,046	3,275,400	3,622,400	3,944,700	53.8

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Agriculture remains an important factor in the economy of the region. Cattle and sod farms still predominate much of the landscapes of interior counties. Ornamental nurseries are a major activity as well. Until the devastating freezes of the late 1980s, the rolling hills of the region were covered in citrus groves. Today, most of the citrus acreage has been replanted for silviculture or is in the process of residential and commercial development.

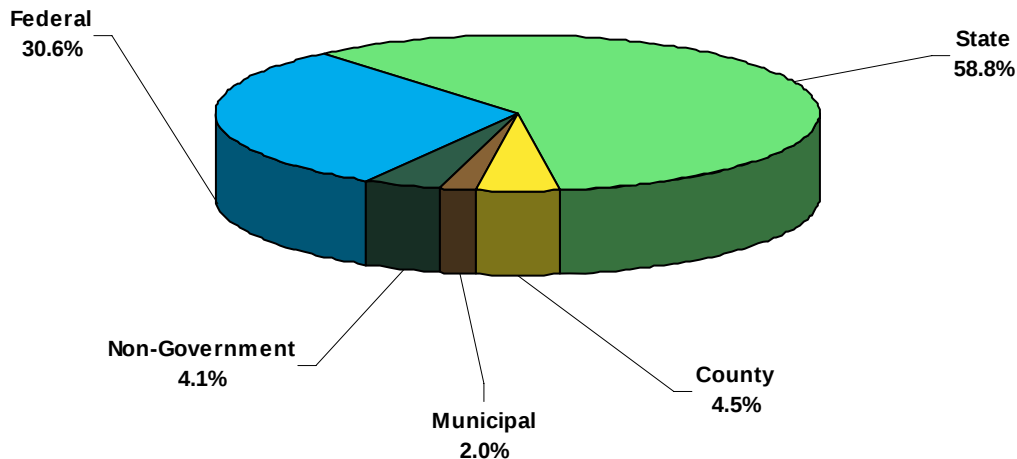
Demographics

In 2007, the East Central region's population of 3.1 million comprised 17 percent of Florida's total population. Estimates predict 1.4 million new residents by 2020, a 54 percent increase from 2000 census figures. Population densities range from a low of 201 persons per square mile in Osceola County to a high of 1,381 persons per square mile in Seminole County. Table 4.6.1 displays population and projected growth for the six counties from the 2000 census and estimates through 2020.



Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area, Osceola County

Figure 4.6.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
East Central Florida Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

East Central Florida's topography, water resources and vegetation provide a diverse contrast in outdoor recreation resources. The region's principal rivers - the St. Johns and Kissimmee - and their major and minor tributaries provide an abundance of river-related recreation opportunities. The region's more than 100 miles of Atlantic beaches and vast coastal lagoon systems provide extensive saltwater recreational opportunities. The region's large tracts of wet and dry prairie and the scrub communities of the Lake Wales Ridge provide many excellent areas for wildlife-related outdoor recreation.

Nearly 1.2 million acres of public and private conservation and recreation lands are available for outdoor recreation in the region. Public agencies provide 96 percent of the outdoor recreation acreage, with state agencies providing the largest share. The private sector also plays an extremely important role

in providing outdoor recreation acreage in the region, second only to the Southwest Florida Region in terms of total acreage provided.

The federal government provides more than 360,000 acres of land and water distributed among 12 major outdoor recreation areas. Of the federal lands, 33 percent is available for public hunting. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the largest managed area in the region, provides more than 138,000 acres of land and water. The federal category is also the largest single provider of saltwater beaches in the region, supplying more than 30 miles.

State agencies together provide the largest percentage of outdoor recreation lands in the region, accounting for over 58 percent of all outdoor recreation acreage and close to 700,000 total acres. The state supplies miles of unpaved bicycle, equestrian, hiking and canoe trails. State agencies also provide nearly 85 percent of the total hunting lands in the region.



Lake Norris, Lake County

East Central Florida's county and municipal governments provide nearly 1,500 parks and recreation sites and six percent of the total outdoor recreation acreage in the region. Cities and counties are the largest providers of facilities for freshwater and saltwater shoreline fishing and recreational boating access. They also provide the majority of recreational trails for nature study, bicycling, jogging and horseback riding.

Table 4.6.2 displays East Central Florida's outdoor recreation resources by category of provider. Table 4.6.3 lists the major outdoor recreation areas provided or managed by national, state and municipal agencies.

The private sector provides four percent of the region's total outdoor recreation lands. Private suppliers provide the most tent and RV/trailer campsites. As seen in other regions of the state, the private sector also provides the vast majority of freshwater and saltwater marinas.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.6.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
East Central Florida Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	12	120	601	882	449	2,064
LAND	Acres	180,887	599,346	49,794	21,917	45,268	897,212
WATER	Acres	182,723	919,15	3,475	2,363	2,981	283,456
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	363,609	691,261	53,268	24,281	48,266	1,180,686
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	2	35	0	5	505	547
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	129	685	417	521	2,795	4,547
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	145	362	653	32	33,911	35,103
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	94	48	38	32	83	295
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	0	0	4	26	12	42
MUSEUMS	Museums	3	6	20	18	47	94
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	182	657	4,210	3,125	17,769	25,943
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	60,668	363,763	5,000	0	0	429,431
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	53.7	109.0	76.8	0.0	239.5
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	40.0	249.7	126.2	32.6	13.7	462.2
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	15.5	101.0	46.0	0.2	81.0	243.7
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	60.2	495.8	290.5	42.2	35.4	924.1
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	12.2	249.7	201.6	20.4	45.7	529.6
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	0.0	64.2	129.2	96.3	23.9	313.6
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	16.1
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	25.7	51.0	197.6	68.6	64.4	407.3
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.2	0.1	4.9	19	2.5	9.5
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	7	34	84	70	96	291
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	10	27	114	88	106	345
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	4	43	62	48	157
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	460	26,760	16,667	6,508	50,395
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	50	900	8,926	1,051	10,927
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	1	3	112	116
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	0	62	6	214	3,452	3,734
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	1	7	36	62	22	128
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	50	352	3,197	7,714	5,788	17,101
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	30.6	4.0	14.8	3.3	0.4	53.1
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	12	5	27	41	31	116
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	16	6	45	47	42	156
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	32	2	17	42	6	99
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	7,277	88	19,962	8,604	1,250	37,181
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	500	0	0	650	1,150
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	3	0	1	2	54	60
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	373	29	92	592	3,033	4,119
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	3	5	27	24	6	65
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	284	876	4,325	3,928	2,560	11,973
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	9	12	328	429	42	820
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	24	6	666	536	136	1,368
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	16	9	308	419	103	855
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	6	9	144	125	25	309
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	1	1	2	10	100	114
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	1	14	15
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	1	0	16	17
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	18	18	54	189	1,827	2,106
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	4	28	86	35	153
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	2	3	151	95	45	296
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	3	7	14	49	246	319
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	8	33	90	140	43	314
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	3	26	59	478	427	993
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	8	54	265	475	493	1,295
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	11	57	51	10	129

Table 4.6.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
East Central Florida Region
2007

Federal Areas

National Forests	<u>Acres</u>
Ocala (Lake County portion)*	84,361
National Parks	
Canaveral National Seashore	57,627
National Wildlife Refuges	
Archie Carr (Brevard County portion)	230
Lake Woodruff*	21,800
Merritt Island*	138,263
St. Johns	6,255
National Wild and Scenic Rivers	<u>Miles</u>
Wekiva River	41.6

State Areas

Aquatic Preserves	<u>Acres</u>
Banana River	29,899
Indian River Lagoon	27,966
Mosquito Lagoon	36,000
Tomoka Marsh	8,000
Wekiva River	19,000
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>
Florida Black Bear Scenic Byway (Lake and Volusia segments)	58
Green Mountain Scenic Byway	20
Indian River Lagoon Scenic Highway	166
Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail	34
Greenways and Trails	
General James A. Van Fleet Trail (Lake County segment)	14
State Forests	<u>Acres</u>
Holopaw	58
Lake George*	21,176
Little Big Econ*	10,236
Seminole*	27,064
Tiger Bay*	27,396
State Parks	
Addison Blockhouse	6
Blue Spring	2,644
Bulow Creek (Volusia portion)	4,715

State Parks (continued)	<u>Acres</u>
De Leon Springs	606
Haw Creek (Volusia portion)	1,727
Hontoon Island	1,648
Indian River Lagoon	502
Kissimmee Prairie (Osceola County portion)	520
Lake Griffin	559
Lake Kissimmee	5,934
Lake Louisa	4,408
Lower Wekiva River	17,405
North Peninsula	564
Rock Springs Run*	13,717
Sebastian Inlet (Brevard County portion)	541
St. Sebastian River (Brevard County portion)	10,465
Tomoka	1,497
Wekiwa Springs	7,737
Water Management Districts Lands	
St. Johns WMD	
Buck Lake*	9,638
Bull Creek*	23,470
Canaveral Marshes	6,741
Clark Bay*	4,793
Emeralda Marsh*	7,089
Heart Island*	12,082
Lake Apopka Restoration Area	19,825
Lake George*	11,973
Lake Jesup	5,257
Lake Norris	2,352
Pine Island	850
River Lakes*	36,156
Seminole Ranch*	29,145
Three Forks Marsh*	53,112
Wekiva River Buffer	2,570
Wiregrass Prairie	1,401

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Table 4.6.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
East Central Florida Region
2007
 (continued)

<i>Southwest Florida WMD</i>	<u>Acres</u>	Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife & Environmental Areas and Mitigation Parks	<u>Acres</u>
Green Swamp-Little Withlacoochee Tract*	37,545	Hilochee (Lake County portion)*	6,246
<i>South Florida WMD</i>		Prairie Lakes Unit - Three Lakes*	8,859
Lower Reedy Creek (Osceola County portion)*	5,039	Salt Lake*	7,800
Shingle Creek	1,650	Split Oak	1,689
Upper Reedy Creek	4,070	Three Lakes*	52,976
		Triple N Ranch*	15,391
		Tosohatchee*	30,701

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	<u>Areas</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Areas</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Brevard	247	12,014	184	1,619
Lake	45	713	103	1,055
Orange	92	16,211	246	5,926
Osceola	64	2,129	28	336
Seminole	37	6,131	84	1,048
Volusia	116	16,068	237	14,342



University of Central Florida, Orange County

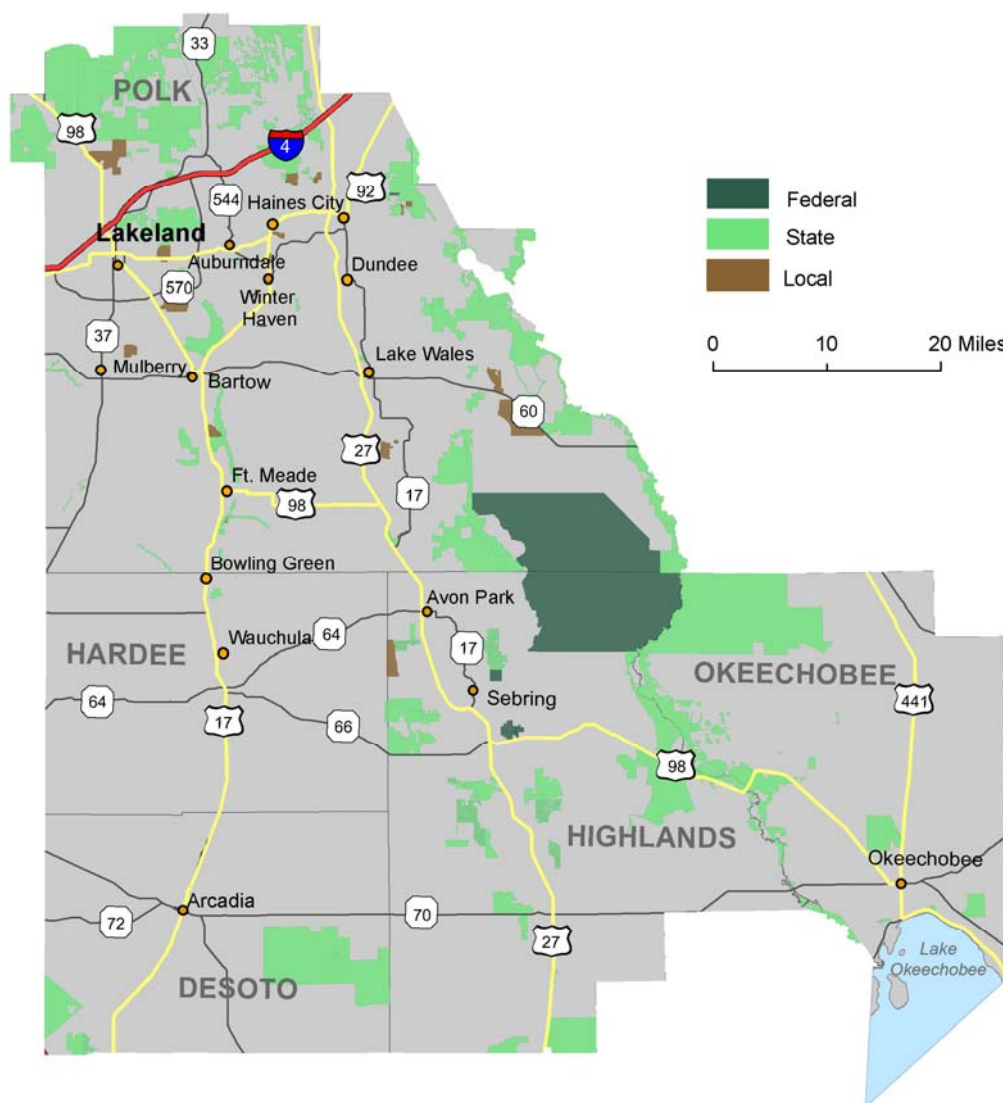
Central Florida Region

The Central Florida Region is the only one of the 11 planning regions with no coastal border and its outdoor recreation profile reflects this key distinction. The region encompasses 5,286 square miles and contains five counties and 25 municipalities.

The physiographic spine of the region is the *Lake Wales Ridge*, which contains prime examples of many highly imperiled ecosystems,

imperiled plant and animal species, and numerous large freshwater lakes. The Green Swamp in the northwestern part of the region forms the headwaters of five river systems and is the primary recharge area for the Floridan Aquifer in central Florida. The Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee are the region's other principal hydrological features, both of which play an important role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities.

Figure 4.7.1
Public Conservation Lands





Highlands Hammock State Park, Highlands County

Economy

The Central region remains largely rural in character. Agriculture, cattle production and phosphate mining represent the backbone of the regional economy. Most of the phosphate mining in the United States is conducted in the region. Polk County is the exception to the rural pattern of the region. Its

location in the heart of the Interstate 4 corridor between Tampa and Orlando makes it an attractive location for many transportation-related industries. Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands and Okeechobee counties have been designated as “Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern” to encourage economic development in the area.

Table 4.7.1
Current and Projected Population
Central Florida Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change
			2010	2015	2020	2000-2020
DeSoto	32,209	33,983	34,700	37,500	39,200	21.7
Hardee	26,938	27,520	27,700	28,300	28,700	6.5
Highlands	87,366	98,727	101,600	109,400	116,500	33.3
Okeechobee	35,910	39,030	39,700	41,500	43,100	20.0
Polk	483,924	581,058	602,500	660,500	713,900	47.5
Region Totals	666,347	780,318	806,200	877,200	941,400	41.3

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Demographics

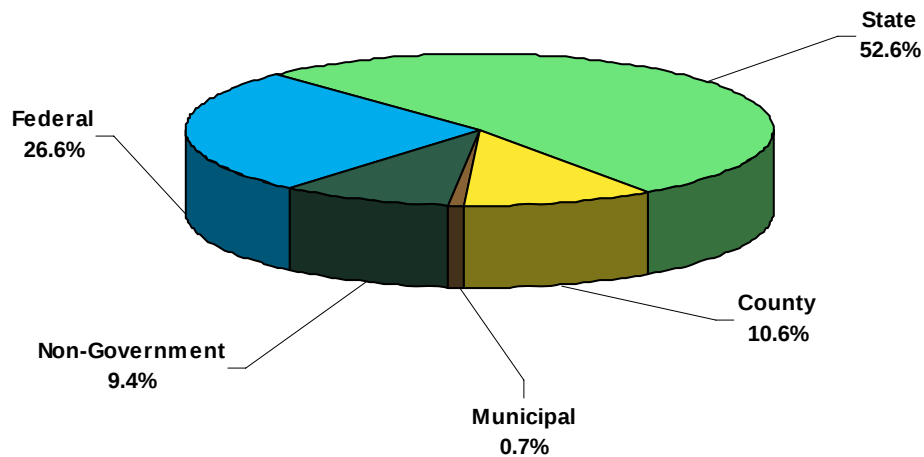
The region contained 4.2 percent of Florida's total population in 2007. Projections are for 275,000 new residents to migrate to the region by 2020, a 41 percent increase from

2000. Population density ranges from 43 persons per square mile in Hardee County to 310 persons per square mile in the more urbanized Polk County. Table 4.7.1 displays the population for the five-county area and projections through 2020.



Fort Fraser Trail, Polk County

Figure 4.7.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
Central Florida Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

Central Florida's landscapes provide a rich diversity of natural resources that support an abundance of high quality outdoor recreation opportunities. Particularly important are the region's rivers and lakes - including the

Peace and Kissimmee Rivers and Lakes Okeechobee, Arbuckle and Istokpoga. These waters support an outstanding fresh-water fishery that attracts fishermen and other sportsmen from across the United States. The Peace River winds 67 miles



Peace River, Hardee County

through Polk, Hardee and DeSoto counties providing excellent canoeing and kayaking. Public and private parks and recreation areas surrounding these waters provide opportunities for boating, camping, fishing and many other activities. More than 391,000 acres of outdoor recreation land and water are made available by the region's public and private providers.

Two federal properties offer limited public access in the region. Avon Park Air Force Range, managed by the U.S. Air Force, contains a portion of the Florida National Scenic Trail and conducts limited public hunting on a periodic basis. The Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge is managed cooperatively by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and non-profit organizations as the first refuge designated for the recovery of endangered and threatened plants.

Just more than half of the total outdoor recreation acreage in the region is provided by state agencies. Eight state parks offer diverse resource-based activities for visitors. Public hunting is provided at eight state wildlife management areas and cooperatively managed sites. State level suppliers provide nearly 200 miles of single-purpose recreation trails for horseback riding, hiking, canoeing, bicycling, jogging and nature study.

Counties and municipalities provide a greater share of outdoor recreation acreage in the Central region than those anywhere else in the state. Local governments manage 503 recreation sites on over 46,000 acres. Together, they are the largest provider of resource-based facilities for historic site interpretation, jogging, paved-trail bicycling, freshwater shoreline fishing and freshwater boat ramps.



Private Fish Camp, Polk County

Private sector providers (commercial, club and non-profit organizations) supply nearly 39,000 acres of outdoor recreation land and water in the region. In this regard, they play a more significant role in providing outdoor recreation here than in any other region of the state. In addition, this category provides 119 of the 139 outdoor swimming pools, 981 of the 1,053 golf courses and 1,054 of the 1,082 freshwater marina slips in the region.

Table 4.7.2 shows Central Florida's outdoor recreation resources by category of provider. Table 4.7.3 identifies the major outdoor recreation opportunities provided or managed by national, state and municipal entities.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.7.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Central Florida Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	3	73	221	282	225	804
LAND	Acres	107,967	208,992	14,619	2,866	31,414	365,858
WATER	Acres	0	4,917	28,526	38	6,868	40,349
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	107,967	213,909	43,145	2,904	38,372	406,298
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	0	0	0	0	306	306
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	25	287	46	10	642	1,009
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	0	251	371	0	24,812	25,434
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	0	1	9	6	8	24
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	0	0	0	4	1	5
MUSEUMS	Museums	0	2	5	3	9	19
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	55	210	392	966	8,342	9,965
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	78,000	50,767	0	0	0	128,767
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	11.7	7.6	21.4	16.3	57.0
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	0.0	154.7	7.5	4.2	10.5	176.9
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	0.0	15.0	10.0	0.5	27.3	52.8
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	65.7	295.0	31.1	10.5	26.5	428.8
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	16.0	176.7	24.7	0.0	0.1	217.5
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	7.7	15.8	2.7	22.9	8.8	57.9
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	8.2	121.4	27.2	15.9	22.4	195.1
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	2.7	3.7
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	1	19	100	50	79	249
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	1	24	116	56	86	283
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	1	2	9	11	36	59
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	100	90	4,504	3,095	2,585	10,374
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	25,750	0	25,750
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	0	0	147	147
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	0	18	10	0	1,054	1,082
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	2	1	16	23	21	63
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	10	45	2,015	2,808	1,678	6,556
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	0	0	0	0	0	0
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	1	180	186	12	379
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	0	0	214	190	47	451
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	0	3	74	130	35	242
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	0	39	34	3	76
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	2	40	42
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	4	21	25
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	0	21	21
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	0	0	0	72	981	1,053
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	0	10	32	23	65
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	0	1	25	36	16	78
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	0	1	4	15	119	139
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	0	3	19	51	14	87
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	2	9	234	411	656
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	0	8	53	134	184	379
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	0	3	17	6	26

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.7.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Central Florida Region
2007

Federal Areas					
Military Installations	Acres		South Florida WMD (continued)	Acres	
Avon Park Air Force Range	106,000		Gardner-Cobb Marsh & Drasdo*	1,714	
National Wildlife Refuges			Kicco and Blanket Bay Slough*	12,164	
Lake Wales Ridge	1,857		Lake Hatchineha/Catfish Creek*	958	
			Lake Marion Creek *	8,083	
			Micco Landing*	1,550	
State Areas			Oak Creek, No Name &		
Florida Scenic Highways	Miles		Starvation Slough*	4,106	
The Ridge Scenic Highway	35		S-65E Impoundment & Paradise		
Greenways and Trails			Run*	2,358	
General James A. Van Fleet Trail	12		Seaboard, Yates & Telex Marsh	2,105	
(Polk County segment)			Sumica*	4,109	
Lake Okeechobee Trail	20		Turkey Hammock & Cornwell	4,659	
(Okeechobee County segment)			Marshes		
State Forests	Acres		Southwest Florida WMD		
Lake Wales Ridge*	26,563		Alafia River Reserve	334	
State Parks			Deep Creek	2,000	
Allen David Broussard Catfish	8,087		Green Swamp-East Tract*	23,961	
Creek			(Polk County portion)		
Colt Creek	5,062		Jack Creek	1,286	
Highlands Hammock	9,251		RV Griffin Reserve	6,000	
Kissimmee Prairie (Okeechobee	53,766		Wildlife Management Areas,		
County portion)			Wildlife & Environmental Areas,		
Lake June-in-Winter Scrub	846		Fish Management Areas		
Lake Kissimmee	5,934		and Mitigation Parks		
Okeechobee Battlefield	145		Hilochee*	3,123	
Paynes Creek	410		Lake Wales Ridge*	14,482	
Water Management District Lands			Osprey Unit - Hilochee*	6,093	
South Florida WMD			Platt Branch	1,973	
Boney Marsh, Bluff Hammock &	9,060		Tenoroc	1,972	
Hickory Hammock *					

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
DeSoto	19	481	15	163
Hardee	7	1,446	17	50
Highlands	52	29,262	41	168
Okeechobee	25	460	2	8
Polk	118	11,496	207	2,525

Tampa Bay Region

The Tampa Bay Region encompasses 3,467 square miles and includes Pinellas, Pasco, Manatee and Hillsborough counties. The region is favored with nearly 700 miles of saltwater shoreline and all four counties in the region have frontage on the Gulf of Mexico or Tampa Bay. Both Manatee and Pinellas are buffered by barrier islands that offer miles of sandy beaches. The coastal areas of the region are heavily populated and highly urbanized, in contrast to the sparsely populated rural lands east of the metropolitan areas. The region's diverse water resources (both freshwater and saltwater) together with its miles of sandy Gulf beaches and thousands of acres of public lands, offer many excellent outdoor recreation opportunities.

Economy

Anchored by Tampa International Airport, with extensive domestic and international scheduled flights, and three deep-water ports, business and industry play a major role in the region. The metropolitan area of Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater dominates as the region's economic center. Trade, services and construction are the major industries in the area. The coastal area continues to be a magnet drawing retirees, seasonal residents and tourists to the many miles of sandy beaches, boating access facilities and the relaxed lifestyle that this area has typified for generations.

Demographics

In 2007, the Tampa Bay Region's population of 2.8 million people made up 15.5 percent of Florida's population. Estimates project that an additional 846,000 residents will move to the region by 2020, a 34 percent increase from

Figure 4.8.1
Public Conservation Lands

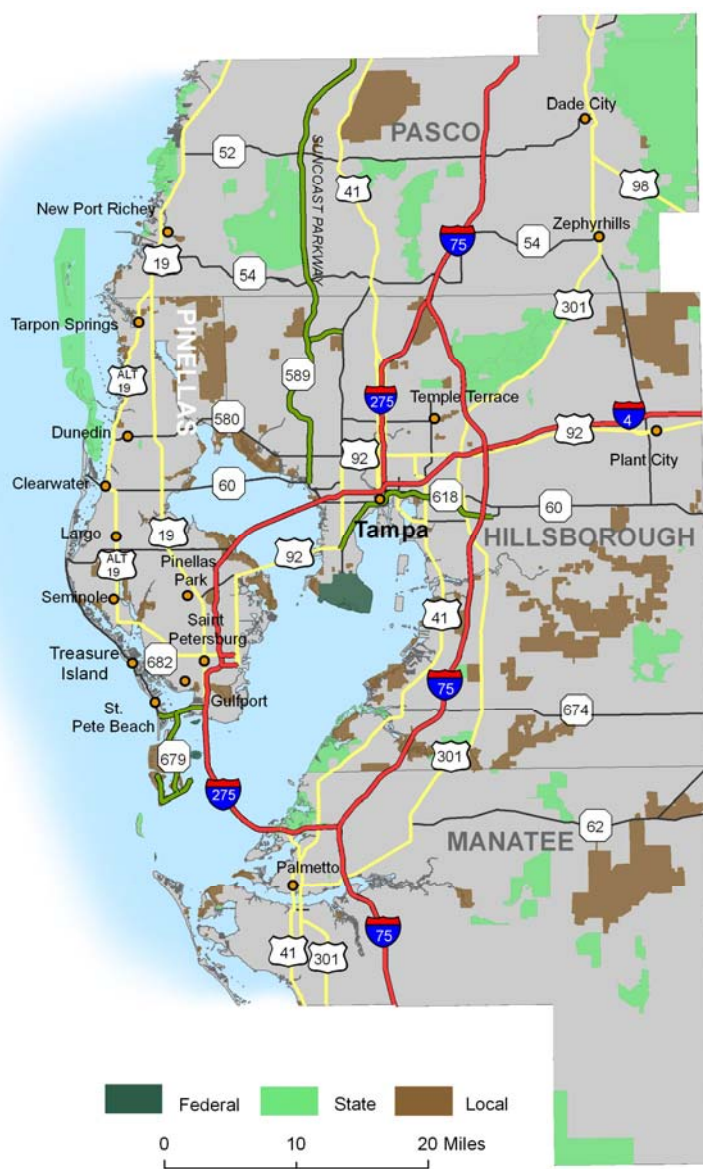


Table 4.8.1
Current and Projected Population
Tampa Bay Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Hillsborough	998,948	1,192,861	1,234,900	1,346,600	1,449,900	45.1
Manatee	264,002	315,890	327,500	358,400	387,000	46.6
Pasco	344,768	434,425	454,200	507,400	556,600	61.4
Pinellas	921,495	944,199	950,300	966,900	982,200	6.6
Region Totals	2,529,213	2,887,375	2,966,900	3,179,300	3,375,700	33.5

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

2000. Population density ranges from a low of 426 persons per square mile in Manatee County to a high of 3,370 persons per square mile in Pinellas County, the highest population density in the state. Table 4.8.1 displays current and projected population for the area from 2000 through 2020.

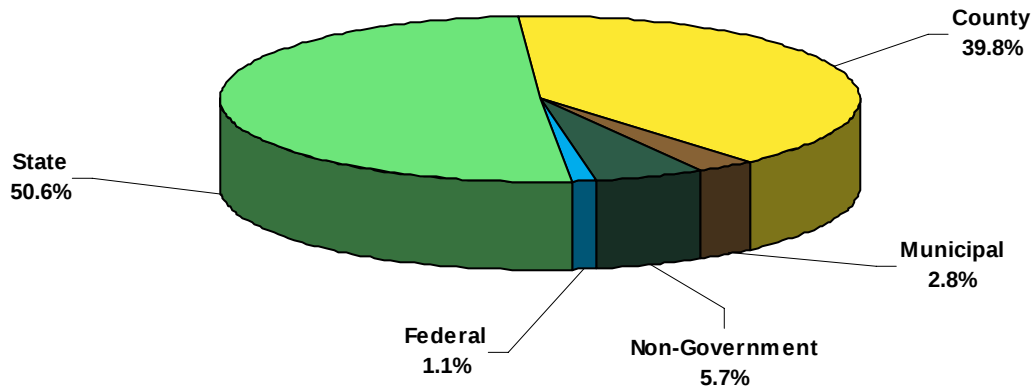
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

The beaches and coastal wetlands of the Tampa Bay Region make it one of the state's best areas to enjoy saltwater-related outdoor recreation. The region's Gulf barrier islands, which include Honeymoon, Ca-



Alafia River State Park, Hillsborough County

Figure 4.8.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
Tampa Bay Region



ladesi, Anna Maria, Anclote Key, Longboat Key and Mullet Key, possess some of the best sandy beaches in the country. The region's freshwater resources are significant as well. Rivers, including the Hillsborough, Manatee, Little Manatee, Myakka, Anclote, and Pithlachascotee, provide abundant boating, fishing, hunting and canoeing.

Nearly 326,000 acres of public and private outdoor recreation land and water are located in the Tampa Bay Region. Similar to other regions, over 90 percent of the acreage is managed by federal, state and local governments. Although private entities provide only six percent of the total acreage in the region, they provide a majority of the camping and boating-related facilities.

The federal government plays a relatively smaller role in providing outdoor recreation land in this region than in any other region in the state. The six federal recreation areas contain less than 3,800 acres, or just more

than one percent of the region's total. Half of the federal areas are comprised of national wildlife refuges. Although public access is restricted in some areas, public use opportunities include beach use and wildlife-dependent public uses such as wildlife observation, bird watching, fishing and photography.

State government agencies administer more than 156,000 acres and 85 sites in the region. One-third of the state-administered lands are within 17 state parks. State-administered areas provide 11 miles of salt-water beach, over 43,000 acres of hunting lands and 144 miles of hiking trails. State agencies provide more than 50 percent of the outdoor recreation lands in the Tampa Bay Region.

County and municipal governments play a large role in providing both resource-based and user-oriented recreation opportunities. Together, they provide programs and activities on over 146,000 acres of land and water



Pinellas Trail, Pinellas County

in 1,370 outdoor recreation areas. User-oriented activities are major activities for residents and tourists in the region. Local governments provide the majority of public water access facilities, including freshwater and saltwater boat ramps and shoreline fishing facilities. They also provide 711 of the 764 baseball fields, 942 of the 1,043 basketball goals and 238 of the 260 football fields in the region.

The private sector provides more than 19,000 acres for outdoor recreation at 396 sites. Private entities supply the majority of RV/trailer campsites, cabins and freshwater and saltwater marina slips in the region. They also provide 1,800 of the 2,097 golf holes.

Figure 4.8.2 displays the distribution of outdoor recreation acreage by category of managing agency for the Tampa Bay Region. Table 4.8.2 shows the region's outdoor recreation supply by level of provider. Table 4.8.3 shows the major outdoor recreation areas provided or managed by federal, state and local governments.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.8.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Tampa Bay Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	6	86	417	953	396	1,858
LAND	Acres	3,767	115,837	134,727	8,858	17,927	258,583
WATER	Acres	9	79,812	1,521	887	1,351	49,684
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	3,776	195,649	136,315	9,745	19,389	364,873
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	0	5	10	5	626	646
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	50	312	284	7	538	1,191
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	294	295	265	0	28,707	29,561
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	0	2	5	9	1	17
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	2	10	69	17	6	104
MUSEUMS	Museums	2	5	27	7	14	55
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	60	636	4,811	3,207	9,487	18,201
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	0	43,320	15,000	0	0	58,320
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	4.0	90.3	416	0.0	135.9
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	5.0	124.9	163.8	14.0	5.0	312.7
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	2.0	55.8	48.8	27.8	26.0	160.4
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	1	184.6	158.5	417	6.7	392.5
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	0.0	99.0	94.8	2.3	55.4	251.5
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	7.5	3.2	90.7	56.8	4.7	162.9
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	4.9	20.9	126.3	37.5	4.6	194.2
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	23.4	24.0
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	0	10	36	10	22	78
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	0	11	53	15	23	102
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	4	18	31	19	72
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	530	9,210	7,707	555	18,002
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	30,551	0	30,551
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	0	1	10	11
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	0	0	0	2	198	200
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	0	6	7	46	2	61
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	0	240	1466	1,328	100	3,134
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	3.3	114	9.4	17.9	9.8	517
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	1	3	48	57	34	143
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	2	3	99	69	40	213
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	1	8	45	70	23	147
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	175	13,896	9,335	9,394	2,938	35,738
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	1,000	5	250	56	890	2,201
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	1	1	1	13	89	105
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	35	108	8	1,655	6,019	7,825
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	1	2	12	37	14	66
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	60	11,725	12,525	10,789	4,137	39,236
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	6	10	374	337	37	764
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	2	22	425	517	77	1,043
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	3	12	258	339	45	657
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	3	5	137	101	14	260
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	2	0	3	8	77	90
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	1	18	19
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	3	23	26
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	36	0	54	207	1,800	2,097
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	4	0	157	101	22	284
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	0	6	85	83	56	230
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	2	1	9	42	231	285
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	0	13	44	95	51	203
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	0	19	529	606	1,154
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	6	67	226	396	635	1,330
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	4	7	10	2	23

Table 4.8.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Tampa Bay Region
2007

Federal Areas		State Parks (Continued)		Acres
National Parks	<u>Acres</u>	Hillsborough River		3,789
DeSoto National Monument	25	Honeymoon Island		2,810
National Wildlife Refuges		Lake Manatee		549
Egmont Key	272	Little Manatee River		2,416
Passage Key	64	Madira Bickel Mound		10
Pinellas	394	Myakka River (Manatee County portion)		10,132
State Areas		Skyway Fishing Pier		20
Aquatic Preserves		Terra Ceia		1,876
Boca Ciega Bay	22,000	Werner-Boyce Salt Springs		3,999
Cockroach Bay	8000	Ybor City		1
Terra Ceia	26,000	Water Management District Lands		
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>	Southwest Florida WMD		
Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway	2	Cypress Creek		7,400
Courtney Campbell Causeway	9	Green Swamp - West Tract*		37,350
Palma Sola Scenic Highway	5	Edward Chance Reserve - Coker		1,200
Suncoast Scenic Parkway (Hillsborough and Pasco County portion)	21	Prairie Tract		
Greenways and Trails		Edward Chance-Gilley		5,800
Withlacoochee State Trail	2	Creek Tract		
State Forests	<u>Acres</u>	Little Manatee River - Southfork		970
Withlacoochee (Pasco portion)*	7,043	Tract		
State Parks		Lower Hillsborough		16,000
Alafia River	6,312	Myakka River - Flatford Swamp		2,357
Anclote Key	12,177	Upper Hillsborough*		9,961
Baker	1,739	Starke Wilderness Preserve		
Caladesi Island	4,528	Serenova Tract		6,533
Cockroach Bay	103	Wildlife & Environmental Areas and Mitigation Parks		
Egmont Key	545	Bullfrog Creek		833
Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation	33	Little Gator Creek		566

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Table 4.8.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Tampa Bay Region
2007
(continued)

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Hillsborough	186	58,139	182	21,253
Manatee	83	27,354	105	538
Pasco	41	32,749	46	349
Pinellas	107	18,072	620	6,618



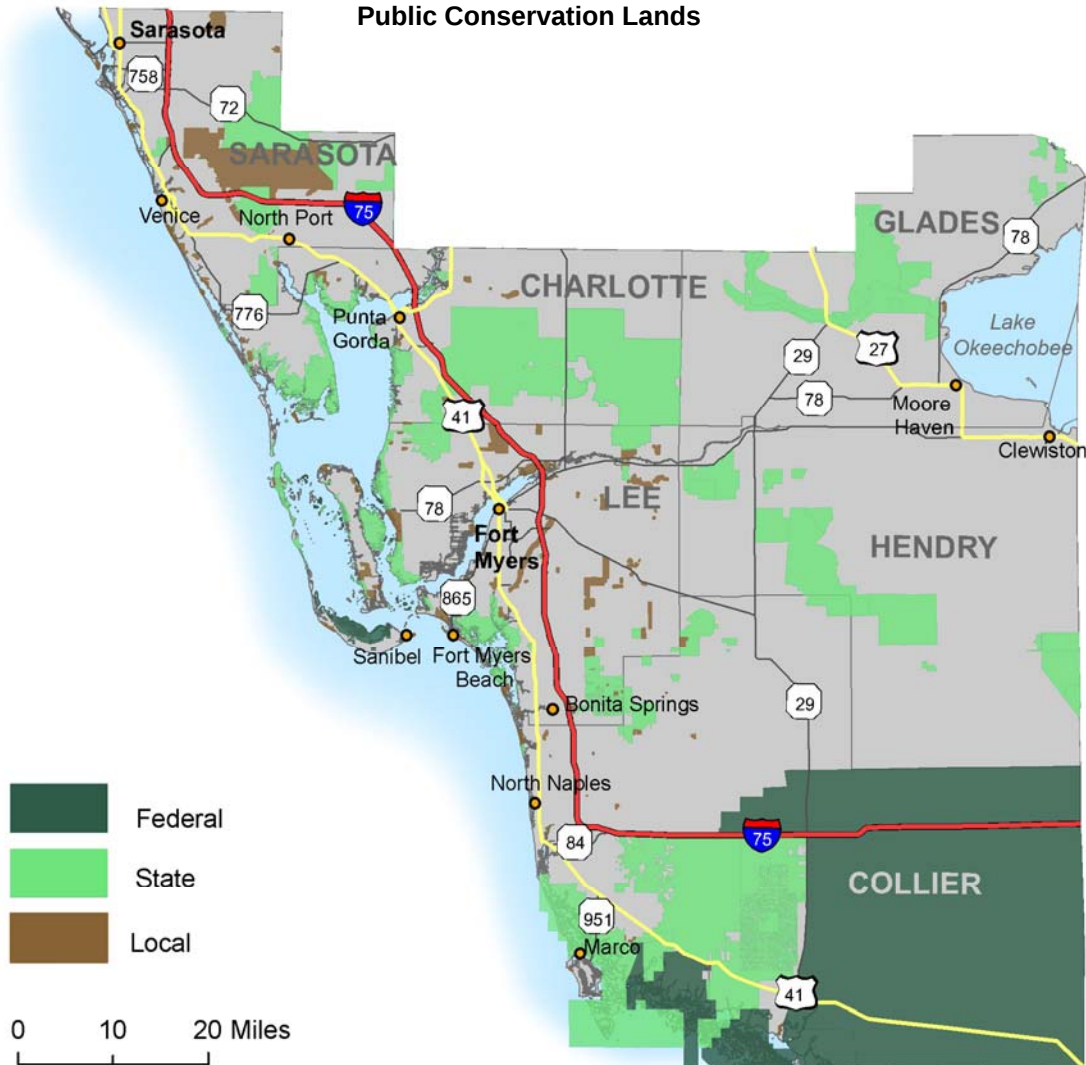
Cypress Forest Park, Pinellas County

Southwest Florida Region

The Southwest Florida Region covers 7,277 square miles and contains six counties lying between Sarasota Bay, the Ten Thousand Islands and Lake Okeechobee. The coastal counties of Charlotte, Collier, Lee and Sarasota together contain 128 miles of Gulf coastline that offer miles of sandy beach access. The region's estuarine areas are among the most biologically productive in the state. The wildlife of these areas provide outstanding opportunities for non-consumptive and consumptive recreational

activities. The far southern portion of the region's coastline remains virtually undeveloped due to the protected status of the extensive federal and state public lands. The region's vast mangrove ecosystems are some of the last remaining examples of the system that once flourished along south Florida's tidal wetlands. The non-coastal counties of Glades and Hendry are bordered by Lake Okeechobee on the east. These areas are primarily agricultural and rural, but also contain many large, intact natural areas.

Figure 4.9.1
Public Conservation Lands





Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park, Collier County

The region is drained by several river systems that originate inland and flow southwest to the Gulf. The Myakka and Peace Rivers discharge into Charlotte Harbor forming a vast estuary of some 2.9 million acres. The Myakka River was designated as a Florida Wild and Scenic River in 1985. The Caloosahatchee River, channelized in the 1880s to permit boat traffic directly between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, was pivotal to opening up southwest Florida to development.

Economy

The Southwest Florida Region relies on a mix of natural resources, history and culture, and a sophisticated hospitality industry to maintain its position as a premier tourism destination. The high quality of life and efficient transportation network that attracts visitors from all over the world also attracts a well-educated work force. The Interstate 75 transportation corridor provides easy access

to Tampa to the north and Miami to the south, while Southwest Florida International Airport offers extensive domestic and international air service. The opening of Florida Gulf Coast University in 1997, the state's 12th state university, and the expansion of several other colleges and universities into the region have spurred the development of technology firms and research parks that attract new business and create new jobs, especially in information technology and bio-science. Although not as widespread as it once was, agriculture continues to be an important source of income in the area. Truck crops and citrus grown on the western fringes of the Everglades supply much of the nation's winter supply of fresh vegetables. Cattle ranching continues to be a major component of the economies of Glades, Charlotte, Lee and Hendry counties.

Table 4.9.1
Current and Projected Population
Southwest Florida Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change
			2010	2015	2020	2000-2020
Charlotte	141,627	164,584	169,700	183,300	195,900	38.3
Collier	251,377	333,858	353,900	406,300	455,300	81.1
Glades	10,576	11,055	11,600	12,100	12,600	19.1
Hendry	36,210	39,651	40,800	43,800	46,700	29.0
Lee	440,888	615,741	654,600	756,700	852,000	93.2
Sarasota	325,961	387,461	400,600	436,100	468,800	43.8
Region Totals	1,206,639	1,552,350	1,631,200	1,838,300	2,031,300	68.3

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Demographics

Total population for the region reached 1.5 million in 2007. Projections estimate that an additional 825,000 people will reside in the region in 2020, a 68 percent increase from 2000. Population densities range from 14

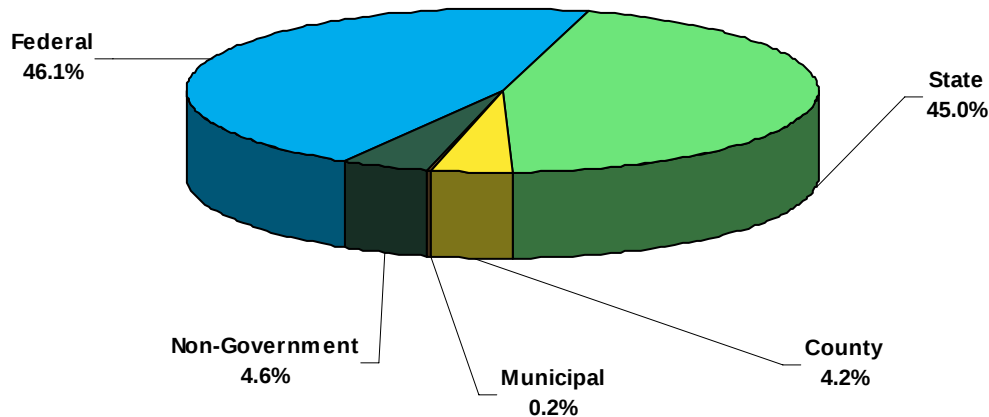
people per square mile in Glades County to 766 people per square mile in Lee County.

As in other parts of Florida, the region's eastern counties are beginning to experience increasing urban development in rural areas. As this trend continues, and as



Myakka Wild and Scenic River, Sarasota County

Figure 4.9.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
Southwest Florida Region



coastal lands become less available for development, population is expected to shift more and more toward these inland counties.

Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

The region's coastal natural resources and its numerous rivers and lakes provide generous opportunities for outdoor recreation. Much attention by federal, state and local governments has been focused on acquiring and protecting these areas. The region has over 1.7 million acres of land and water available for outdoor recreation use. As shown in Figure 4.9.2, 95 percent of all outdoor recreation acreage is provided by public agencies.

Federally managed lands account for 46 percent of the available recreation acres in the region. Two major national parks—Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park—and five national wildlife ref-

uges provide more than 790,000 acres. These federal lands offer most of the region's public hunting opportunities and all of its inventoried supply of off-highway vehicle trails. They also provide an important share of the region's available supply of hiking and nature trails.

State agencies administer over 770,000 acres at 60 separate areas, representing 45 percent of the regional total. This figure does not include the 73,236-acre Babcock Ranch property which was acquired under the *Florida Forever* program in 2007. Thirteen state parks provide a wide range of activities, from saltwater swimming and camping to visiting the early 20th century utopian settlement at Koreshan. Three state forests and five wildlife management areas provide the majority of the state-supplied public hunting in the region. State agencies are the largest providers of canoe, equestrian and hiking trails in the region. They play a major role as well in providing opportunities for shoreline fishing.

Local park and recreation programs in the Southwest region play a more important role in providing water and beach access opportunities than in most other regions of the state. Cities and counties are the largest providers of saltwater and freshwater beaches, freshwater boat ramps and freshwater and saltwater fishing facilities. They are major providers of recreational trails as well, providing more paved bicycle trails, jogging trails and nature trails than any other category. As in the other regions, local governments are the principal providers of user-oriented facilities.

Within the private sector, there are 404 outdoor recreation sites encompassing 78,494 acres, or four percent of total regional acreage. The commercial sector provides the majority of cabins, RV/trailer campsites and tent campsites. As in many regions, the Southwest region's non-government providers are also the largest suppliers of freshwater and saltwater marinas (a combined total of 6,668 slips) and saltwater boat ramps.

Table 4.9.2 shows outdoor recreation resources and facilities by level of provider. Table 4.9.3 lists major outdoor recreation opportunities provided or managed by federal, state and municipal entities.



Imperial River Boat Ramp, Lee County

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.9.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Southwest Florida Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	19	60	417	220	404	1,120
LAND	Acres	724,705	473,831	69,533	2,508	76,117	1,346,694
WATER	Acres	65,312	304,669	2,187	324	1,887	374,378
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	790,017	778,500	71,722	2,748	78,498	1,721,486
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	0	17	0	0	191	208
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	99	407	60	8	662	1,236
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	149	377	80	37	24,517	25,160
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	12	64	8	10	9	103
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	1	3	3	7	3	17
MUSEUMS	Museums	10	8	11	8	15	52
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	94	562	2,184	791	11,820	15,451
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	525,000	246,385	0	0	0	771,385
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	71.0	5.0	49.9	29.7	35.0	190.6
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	9.0	89.3	50.2	11.6	7.5	167.6
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	51.0	58.5	30.9	20.0	51.0	211.4
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	120.5	236.0	74.8	4.8	73.0	509.1
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	0.0	60.4	29.0	0.0	6.0	95.4
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	9.0	0.0	60.9	5.3	7.9	83.1
OHV TRAIL	Miles	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	85.5	81.9	53.4	6.9	24.2	251.9
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1	13	2.0
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	2	17	40	6	32	97
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	3	22	46	7	28	106
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	1	4	10	10	178	203
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	120	2,345	1,553	2,933	805	7,756
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	0	1,340	0	1,340
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	0	1	19	20
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	0	0	0	20	844	864
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	3	1	21	2	5	32
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	340	86	822	221	30,320	31,789
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	16.8	12.7	25.7	6.7	5.4	67.3
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	1	3	31	8	65	108
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	1	7	48	16	67	139
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	7	50	12	29	98
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	3,180	15,465	6,534	6,842	32,021
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	100	7,600	50	7,750
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	2	5	156	163
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	0	34	34	503	5,824	6,395
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	1	0	28	15	28	72
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	50	0	4,856	4,849	3,450	13,205
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	1	0	231	76	6	314
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	0	4	267	63	39	373
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	0	7	178	72	39	296
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	0	72	20	1	93
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	0	0	2	4	96	102
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	0	1	20	21
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	0	23	23
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	0	0	36	81	2,250	2,367
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	0	16	6	9	31
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	0	0	57	13	22	92
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	0	0	26	11	227	264
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	1	0	44	19	21	85
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	3	106	24	443	576
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	0	4	264	87	560	915
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	0	44	5	7	56

Table 4.9.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Southwest Florida Region
2007

Federal Areas

National Estuarine Research Reserves*	<u>Acres</u>	State Parks	<u>Acres</u>
Rookery Bay	110,000	Cayo Costa	2,458
National Parks		Charlotte Harbor	42,475
Big Cypress (Collier County portion)**	575,684	Collier-Seminole	7,272
Everglades (Collier County portion)	39,262	Delnor-Wiggins Pass	166
National Wildlife Refuges		Don Pedro Island	231
Caloosahatchee	40	Estero Bay	10,457
Florida Panther	26,400	Fakahatchee Strand	75,898
J. "Ding" Darling	6,300	Gasparilla Island	127
Matlacha Pass	512	Koreshan	164
Pine Island	584	Lovers Key	1,463
Ten Thousand Islands	31,150	Mound Key	172

State Areas

Aquatic Preserves			
Cape Haze	11,168	State Wild and Scenic Rivers	<u>Miles</u>
Cape Romano-Ten Thousand Islands	50,000	Myakka River	34
Estero Bay	11,300	Water Management District Lands	<u>Acres</u>
Gasparilla Sound-Charlotte Harbor	149,168	South Florida WMD	
Lemon Bay	7,667	Corkscrew Marsh**	25,089
Matlacha Pass	10,000	Nicodemus Slough	2,219
Pine Island Sound	50,000	STA 5*	5,120
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>	Southwest Florida WMD	
Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway	69	Deer Prairie Creek	10,128
Greenways and Trails		Wildlife Management Areas, Mitigation Parks and	
Lake Okeechobee (Glades and Hendry County segment)	46	Babcok/Webb**	65,770
State Forests	<u>Acres</u>	Dinner Island Ranch**	21,714
Myakka**	8,593	Fisheating Creek**	18,272
Okaloacoochee **	32,039	Spirit of the Wild**	7,000
Picayune Strand**	77,827	Hickey Creek	768

* National estuarine research reserves are designated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas.

**Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Table 4.9.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Southwest Florida Region
2007
(continued)

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Charlotte	78	4,415	11	102
Collier	54	3,144	46	57
Glades	12	502	1	2
Hendry	13	716	31	342
Lee	136	10,683	70	1,435
Sarasota	161	52,263	61	850



Ft. Myers Beach, Lee County

Treasure Coast Region

The Treasure Coast Region along the south central Atlantic coast encompasses 4,445 square miles and includes Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties. The region's outstanding barrier island shoreline stretches 111 miles and provides some of the best recreational beaches in Florida. Large lagoons, including Indian River Lagoon, support highly productive es-

tuarine systems that offer outstanding recreational opportunities. Inland, large areas of wetlands have been set aside for water management, conservation and recreation by federal and state governments. Lake Okeechobee's eastern shoreline lies within this region, offering nationally renowned freshwater fishing, boating and hunting.

Figure 4.10.1
Public Conservation Lands



Economy

The region's economy depends heavily on services, tourism, agriculture and the development of new communities to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding population. While the western areas of the region are bordered by conservation lands that protect water resources for southern Florida, many of the former agricultural lands are in the process of being converted to urban development. Palm Beach County, the largest county in terms of land area east of the Mississippi River, is the most economically diverse county in the region. Even as development encroaches upon the Everglades Agricultural Area in western portions of the

county, it still leads the nation in the production of sugar cane and many winter vegetable crops. Similarly, while citrus production is still viable in western St. Lucie and Indian River counties, the groves and other agricultural areas continue to be converted to other uses.

The region is home to two deep water ports at Fort Pierce and Palm Beach. Palm Beach International Airport is a major gateway for residents and visitors to the region. The vast array of business involved in all aspects of tourism continues to play a major role in the area's economy.



Blue Cypress Conservation Area, Indian River County

Table 4.10.1
Current and Projected Population
Treasure Coast Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Indian River	112,947	139,757	145,800	162,000	176,900	56.6
Martin	126,731	143,737	147,900	158,900	169,000	33.4
Palm Beach	1,131,191	1,295,033	1,335,500	1,444,000	1,543,800	36.5
St. Lucie	192,695	271,961	288,900	335,000	378,400	96.4
Region Totals	1,563,564	1,850,488	1,918,100	2,099,900	2,268,100	45.0

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Demographics

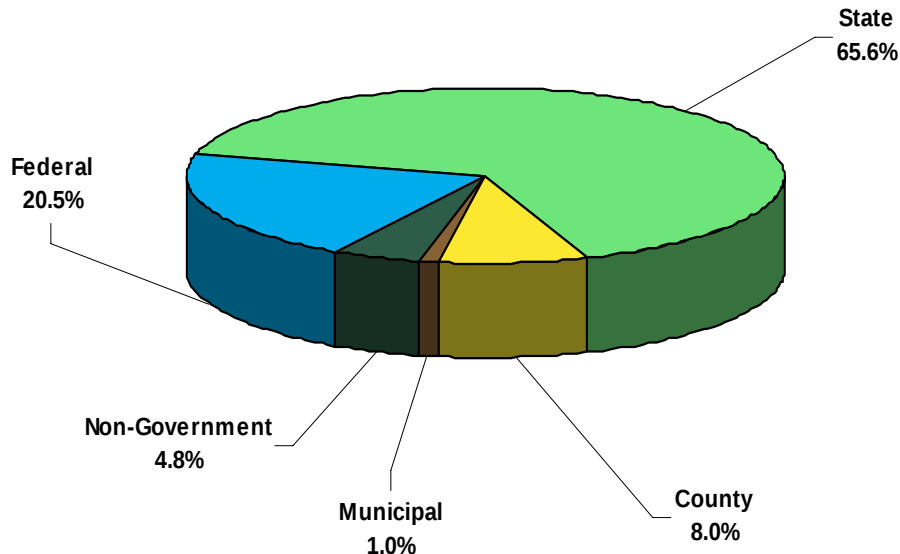
In 2007, the Treasure Coast's population stood at 1.8 million, or 10 percent of the state's total population. By 2020, nearly 250,000 new residents are projected to live in the region, a 45 percent increase. The population is growing as a result of the mi-

gration of retirees and seasonal residents. Population density ranges from a low of 259 persons per square mile in Martin County to a high of 656 persons per square mile in Palm Beach County. Table 4.10.1 displays current and projected population through 2020.



Sebastian Inlet State Park, Indian River County

Figure 4.10.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
Treasure Coast Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

The primary natural features of the Treasure Coast Region include the sandy beaches of the Atlantic coast, a chain of barrier islands and their associated inlets and estuaries, diverse upland natural communities, large and intact wetland systems, and the fresh-water resources of Lake Okeechobee. These resources provide opportunities for the full range of resource-based outdoor recreation activities. Of particular significance to the region is the Indian River Lagoon, which covers an area of more than 883,000 acres and spans some 156 miles from north to south. In 1991, the Lagoon was designated a national estuary and today is the focus of joint state, federal and local land acquisition, planning and management to reverse the harm done in the past by impoundments, drainage practices and pollution. The Lagoon is vital to the Treasure Coast as

a nursery area for many species of fish and other aquatic species. Its outstanding wildlife values are one of the region's most significant outdoor recreation resources.

Nearly three-quarters of a million acres of land and water are available for outdoor recreation in the region. Consistent with distributions in other regions, federal agencies provide one-fifth of the recreation acreage, all of which is contained in three national wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These areas offer outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature study, canoeing and hiking.

State agencies administer roughly two-thirds of the recreation lands in the region at 66 separate areas. State agencies are the largest suppliers of hunting acres and many types of recreational trails (unpaved bicycle trails, equestrian trails, hiking trails and na-



Calypso Bay, Palm Beach County

ture trails). Five state parks provide 3.5 miles of highly popular saltwater beaches and some of the best camping opportunities in the region. Water management lands protect slightly less than 180,000 acres for water resource protection and compatible resource-based activities.

County and municipal governments play a major role in providing both resource-based and user-oriented resources and facilities. Together, they provide nine percent of the region's total recreation land. Local agencies are the region's leading public providers of many types of resource-based facilities, including historic sites and museums, RV/trailer campsites, picnicking facilities, freshwater and saltwater beaches, piers,

boat ramps and some types of recreational trails. As is typical of other regions, they provide virtually all of the user-oriented facilities offered by the public sector.

The private sector provides 315 recreation areas and 21,794 acres, just less than five percent of the region's total. Private agencies account for the majority of RV/trailer and tent campsites and cabins. They are also the primary providers of freshwater and saltwater marina slips and golfing facilities.

Table 4.10.2 displays outdoor recreation resources in the Treasure Coast Region by category of provider. Table 4.10.3 lists major outdoor recreation opportunities provided by national, state and municipal agencies.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.10.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
Treasure Coast Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	8	66	464	461	315	1,314
LAND	Acres	149,313	424,939	51,816	6,870	32,679	665,617
WATER	Acres	4,144	60,392	8,340	443	3,020	76,339
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	153,457	491,046	60,156	7,316	36,155	748,130
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	0	12	14	0	37	63
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	8	227	132	62	375	804
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	138	186	591	996	5,160	7,071
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	0	3	5	11	16	35
COMMEM STRUCTURES	Structures	1	18	9	6	6	40
MUSEUMS	Museums	3	6	24	9	13	55
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	12	408	1,413	1,771	2,293	5,897
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	30,000	311,366	0	0	2,000	343,366
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	0.0	0.0	18.4	52.1	8.4	78.9
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	12.0	117.9	216	20.2	10	172.7
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	5.5	14.5	12.0	32.5	0.0	64.5
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	14.5	291.1	54.6	25.8	5.5	391.5
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	0.0	140.8	18.4	0.0	4.2	163.4
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	0.0	17	34.7	35.4	9.1	80.9
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	14	44.9	38.6	24.0	7.6	116.5
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.0	0.0	9.6	0.1	0.1	9.8
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	4	20	27	20	9	80
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	6	20	36	32	9	103
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	100	200	2,086	4,385	375	7,146
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	1	4	13	10	5	33
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	0	150	50	50	250
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	2	1	2	4	13	22
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	16	0	20	290	611	937
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	0	2	5	16	1	24
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	0	350	340	2,422	0	3,112
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	3.5	7.8	12.3	10.4	6.4	40.4
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	0	3	33	39	16	91
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	0	5	51	50	15	121
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	1	3	35	15	17	71
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	150	262	4,897	6,525	7,226	19,060
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	620	2,427	2,126	270	5,443
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	0	4	16	107	127
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	0	45	78	507	4,825	5,455
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	1	0	14	10	3	28
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	200	0	2,325	2,095	675	5,295
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	8	354	214	13	589
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	0	4	565	304	58	931
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	2	5	236	236	40	519
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	0	11	155	69	8	243
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	0	0	4	9	146	159
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	7	3	16	26
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	1	3	31	35
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	0	0	138	225	2,961	3,324
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	0	0	76	34	22	132
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	0	5	206	86	11	308
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	1	2	11	20	196	230
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	0	20	199	74	28	321
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	1	0	37	186	209	433
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	0	18	295	305	871	1,489
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	2	49	28	3	82

Table 4.10.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
Treasure Coast Region
2007

Federal Areas

National Wild and Scenic Rivers	<u>Acres</u>	State Parks (continued)	<u>Acres</u>
Loxahatchee	8	Jonathan Dickinson	11,479
National Wildlife Refuges		John D. MacArthur Beach	438
Archie Carr (Indian River County portion)	62	Savannas	7,192
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee*	147,368	Seabranh	922
Hobe Sound	1,035	Sebastian Inlet (Indian River County portion)	430
Pelican Island	4,756	St. Sebastian River (Indian River County portion)	10,883
State Areas		St. Lucie Inlet	4,835
Aquatic Preserves		Water Management District Lands	
Indian River-Vero Beach to Ft. Pierce	11,000	St. Johns River WMD	
Jensen Beach to Jupiter Inlet	22,000	Blue Cypress*	54,458
Loxahatchee River-Lake Worth Creek	9,000	Fort Drum Marsh*	20,862
North Fork-St. Lucie	6,100	Oslo Riverfront	336
Florida Scenic Highways	<u>Miles</u>	South Florida WMD	
Indian River Lagoon—Treasure Coast Scenic Highway	42	Allapattah Flats*	20,946
Greenways and Trails		DuPuis*	21,875
Lake Okeechobee (Martin and Palm Beach County segment)	39	STA 1W*	6,848
State Parks	<u>Acres</u>	STA 3/4*	16,772
Atlantic Ridge	5,747	Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife & Environmental Areas	
Avalon	658	Everglades & Francis S. Taylor (Palm Beach County portion)*	36,832
Fort Pierce Inlet	1,141	Holey Land*	35,350
		J.W. Corbett	60,228
		John C. and Marianna Jones/Hungryland*	12,415
		Rotenberger*	28,760

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	<u>County</u>		<u>Municipal</u>	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Indian River	71	8,858	50	494
Martin	74	2,134	29	141
Palm Beach	251	41,123	322	6,202
St. Lucie	68	8,042	60	479

South Florida Region

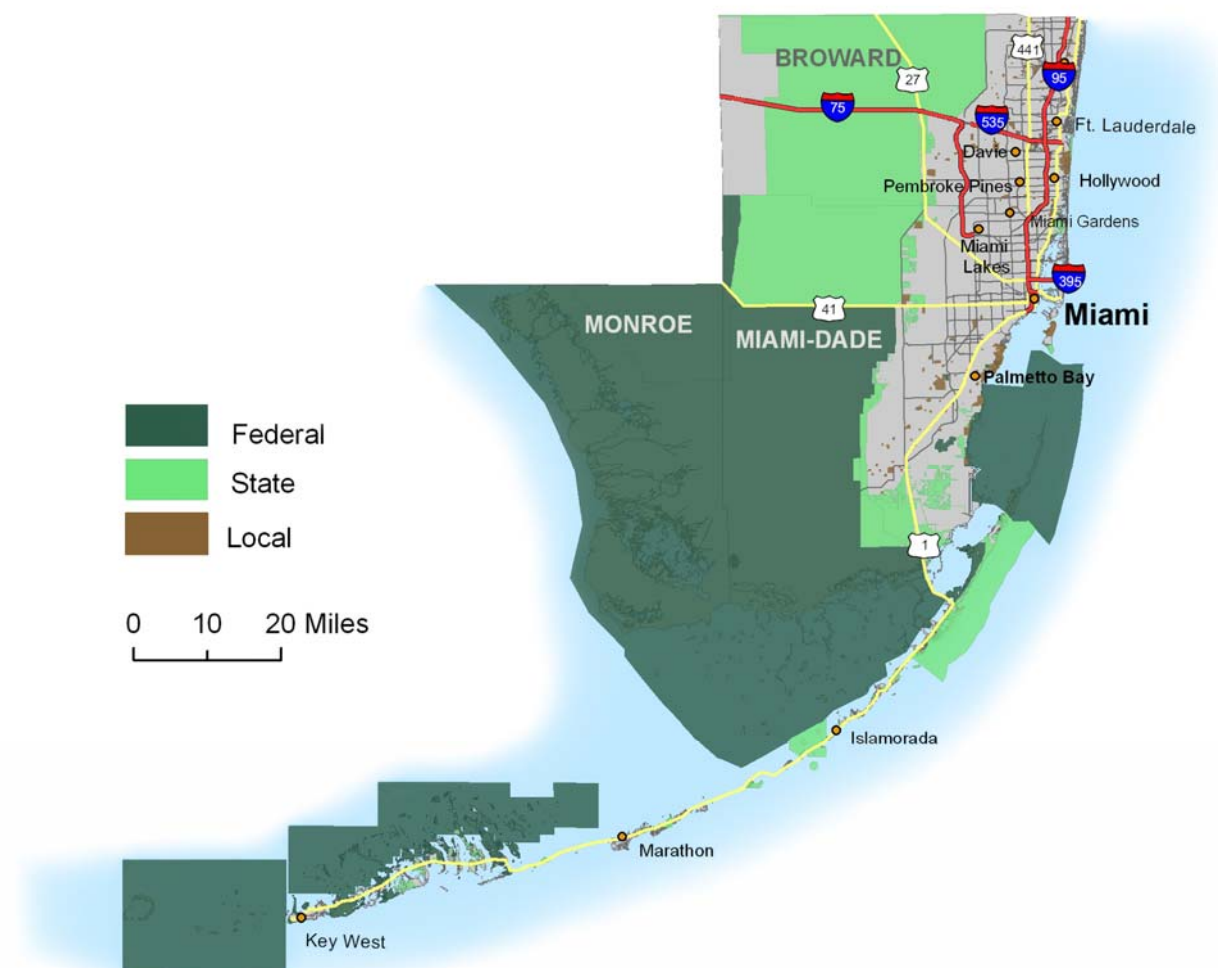
The South Florida Region encompasses 7,488 square miles at the southern tip of the state. It is comprised of Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and 71 municipalities. Florida's most populated region, it is also home to the state's two best-known natural treasures, the Everglades and the Florida Keys. These areas possess inestimable natural values and support a tremendous diversity of resource-based recreation opportunities. To complement these unique

natural resources, the region offers outstanding urban recreation opportunities centered around a vibrant, diverse culture, the waters of Biscayne Bay and nearly 70 miles of sandy Atlantic Ocean beach.

Economy

As the state's most populated region, the South region offers a number of advantages to businesses, including proximity to more

Figure 4.11.1
Public Conservation Lands





Miami Marina at Bayside, Miami-Dade County

than 4.2 million residents and an annual visitor flow of more than twice that number. The region's highly diverse population and its proximity to markets in the Caribbean and Central and South America are advantages for the region's competitiveness in the global economy. Retail trade, services and construction are major sectors of the region's economy. The region is served by three international airports and three major seaports that are important in passenger traffic and cargo shipments. Miami International Airport is the 15th largest airport in the United States and served 32.5 million passengers in 2006. It provides extensive service to Central and South America. Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport primarily handles domestic traffic. The Port of Miami and Port Everglades are major freight and cruise terminals serving the Caribbean and other destinations. Key West has scheduled air service and a deep water port that handles cruise traffic.

Tourism is big business in South Florida. The famous beaches, world-class maritime facilities and services, entertainment, arts and the unique natural attractions of the Everglades and the Keys bring millions of people to the area each year. According to data collected by the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, 11.6 million people visited the Miami area in 2006. Of these, 54 percent were domestic visitors and 46 percent were international visitors. During their stays, they contributed \$16.3 billion in direct economic impact. Similarly, tourism is the major economic driver of the Keys. For the same time period, Monroe County bed tax revenue generated by transient hotel stays totaled \$14.6 million, a 2.3 percent increase over the previous year.

Table 4.11.1
Current and Projected Population
South Florida Region

County	2000	2007	Projections			Percentage Change 2000-2020
			2010	2015	2020	
Broward	1,623,018	1,765,707	1,806,300	1,915,800	2,016,400	24.2
Miami-Dade	2,253,779	2,462,292	2,512,300	2,645,500	2,768,300	22.8
Monroe	79,589	78,987	78,700	77,800	77,000	-3.3
Region Totals	3,956,386	4,306,986	4,397,300	4,639,100	4,861,700	22.9

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Demographics

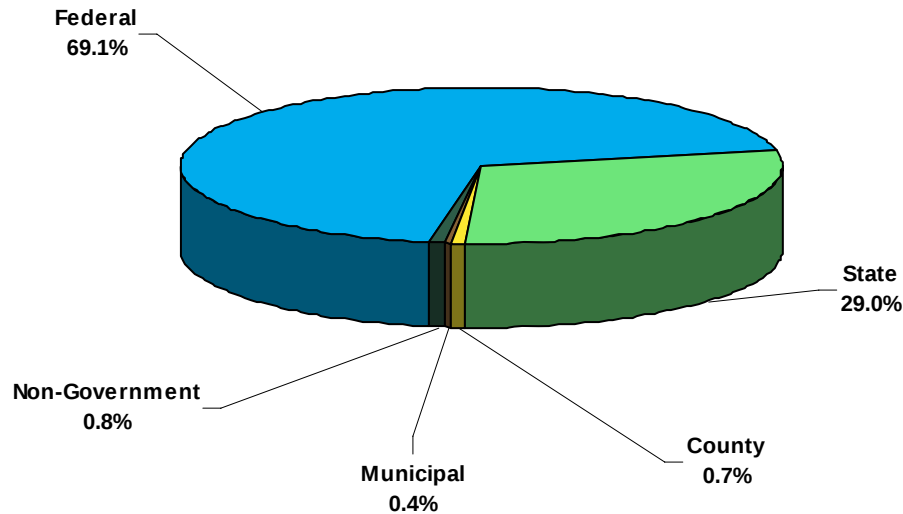
In 2007, the South region was home to 4.3 million people, or more than 23 percent of total Florida population. Projections estimate that 905,000 additional residents will live there by 2020, a 23 percent increase from 2000 census figures. The region's population continues to grow more diverse and slightly younger as a result of the influx of younger international immigrants who are

the most significant source of growth in the region. Population density ranges from a low of 78 persons per square mile in Monroe County to a high of 1,461 persons per square mile in Broward County, the second highest density in the state. Table 4.11.1 displays current population and projected future growth for the three-county area through 2020.



John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Monroe County

Figure 4.11.2
Outdoor Recreation Acreage by Category of Provider
South Florida Region



Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

South Florida's diverse natural, cultural and historical resources are unlike any other region in the state. The Atlantic Ocean and its sandy beaches, numerous bays, coastal marshes and marine sanctuaries offer excellent opportunities for camping, hunting, hiking, swimming, bicycling, fishing, bird watching, boating and saltwater beach activities. The Florida Keys provide South Florida with a rich diversity of plant and animal life within its low coastal topography, and support some of the most interesting and productive diving, snorkeling and fishing opportunities in the world. The 3,800-square mile Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary surrounds the entire archipelago and includes the productive waters of Florida Bay, the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. Unique and precious cultural resources are also contained within the sanctuary. The proximity of coral reefs to centuries-old shipping routes has resulted in a high concentration of shipwrecks and an abundance of artifacts that

have attracted visitors from all over the world for years. The sanctuary contains one of North America's most diverse assemblages of estuarine and marine wildlife and vegetation, including mangrove-fringed shorelines, seagrass meadows and hardbottom habitats, thousands of patch reefs, and one of the world's largest natural coral reef tracts.

There are over three million acres of land and water available for outdoor recreation in the South region. The federal government is by far the largest supplier in terms of overall acreage, providing 69 percent of the total available. Nearly half of these acres are contained within one management unit, Everglades National Park. In no other region does the federal government play as large a role compared to other levels of providers. The federal lands provide ample outdoor recreation areas for participation in activities such as hunting, saltwater boating, freshwater boating, fishing and canoeing and kayaking.



Fort Lauderdale, Broward County

State government agencies provide more than 910,000 acres of outdoor recreation land and water at 77 managed sites (29 percent of the region's acreage total). State agencies are the region's largest provider of hunting acres, hiking and nature trails, and freshwater boat ramps. State suppliers provide a larger than average amount of some user-oriented facilities (tennis courts, racquetball courts and playing fields) primarily at state universities and community college campuses.

South Florida's county and municipal governments are among the state's most accomplished at providing a balanced range of resource-based opportunities for their residents and out-of-state visitors. They administer programs and activities on over 32,000 acres and nearly 1,500 outdoor recreation areas. User-oriented activities are major activities for residents and tourists in the South region. Local governments provide the vast majority of baseball fields, basketball goals and football fields in the region. In

addition, local governments provide a major share of recreational trails and water access facilities such as freshwater and saltwater boat ramps, marinas and shoreline fishing structures.

The commercial sector supplies the majority of camping opportunities in the region with a total of 10,202 RV/trailer campsites, 292 cabins and 678 tent campsites. Of all the suppliers in the region, commercial businesses are the largest providers of freshwater and saltwater boat ramps and marina slips. In addition, 83 percent of the golf courses in the region are located on club or commercial properties.

Table 4.11.2 shows the South region's outdoor recreation resources by provider. Table 4.11.3 lists major outdoor recreation opportunities provided or managed by national, state and municipal entities.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida, 2008

Table 4.11.2
Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider
South Florida Region
2007

RESOURCE/FACILITY	UNITS	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	TOTAL
OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS	Areas	34	77	442	1,012	489	2,054
LAND	Acres	1,047,455	694,124	19,187	11,186	24,200	1,796,151
WATER	Acres	1,128,275	218,803	1,537	502	1,492	1,350,609
ACRES TOTAL	Acres	2,175,730	912,927	20,724	11,743	25,850	3,146,974
RESOURCE-BASED							
CABINS	Cabins	53	20	17	0	292	382
TENT CAMPSITES	Sites	208	225	151	29	678	1,290
RV CAMPSITES	Sites	519	203	703	580	10,202	12,207
HISTORIC SITES	Sites	2	25	32	29	20	108
COM MEM STRUCTURES	Structures	0	4	3	32	1	40
MUSEUMS	Museums	7	10	22	10	22	71
PICNIC TABLES	Tables	399	956	3,211	3,197	6,495	14,258
HUNTING AREAS	Acres	40,000	658,451	0	0	0	698,451
BIKE TRAIL PAVED	Miles	26.0	124.3	60.2	190.9	2.8	404.2
BIKE TRAIL UNPAVED	Miles	18.2	20.5	210	13.1	10	73.8
CANOE TRAIL	Miles	184.8	25.9	12.2	18.7	50.0	291.6
HIKING TRAIL	Miles	119.1	149.5	44.5	102.1	4.3	419.5
EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	Miles	0.0	3.0	47.6	64.3	24.0	138.9
JOGGING TRAIL	Miles	15	5.6	61.7	113.1	9.1	191.0
OHV TRAIL	Miles	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NATURE TRAIL	Miles	19.0	112.3	70.6	42.7	9.2	253.8
FRESHWATER BEACH	Miles	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.9	10	2.6
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	4	48	20	30	8	110
FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	4	59	23	45	13	144
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	0	2	11	28	4	45
FRESHWATER CATWALKS	Feet	0	105	3,616	4,698	190	8,609
FRESHWATER JETTIES	Feet	0	42	1,560	3,125	0	4,727
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Marinas	0	1	0	0	6	7
FRESHWATER MARINAS	Slips	0	15	10	0	300	325
FRESHWATER PIERS	Piers	0	0	10	28	1	39
FRESHWATER PIERS	Feet	0	0	322	1,630	50	2,002
SALTWATER BEACH	Miles	16.2	12.0	4.7	24.8	10.0	67.7
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Ramps	8	11	41	48	94	202
SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS	Lanes	13	18	78	67	107	283
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Catwalks	1	2	7	18	37	65
SALTWATER CATWALKS	Feet	150	1,460	2,583	83,542	20,305	108,040
SALTWATER JETTIES	Feet	7,800	950	3,095	1,367	8,104	21,316
SALTWATER MARINAS	Marinas	4	2	7	22	299	334
SALTWATER MARINA SLIPS	Slips	324	57	1,005	1,662	10,917	13,965
SALTWATER PIERS	Piers	2	9	3	24	34	72
SALTWATER PIERS	Feet	120	100	1,530	7,499	4,192	13,441
USER-ORIENTED							
BASEBALL FIELDS	Fields	4	11	218	500	25	758
BASKETBALL GOALS	Goals	17	8	605	797	112	1,539
EQUIPPED PLAY AREAS	Areas	6	6	211	529	44	796
FOOTBALL FIELDS	Fields	2	10	88	257	17	374
GOLF COURSES, 18-HOLE	Courses	0	0	4	13	86	103
GOLF COURSES, 9-HOLE	Courses	0	0	3	4	11	18
GOLF COURSES, EXECUTIVE	Courses	0	0	0	4	22	26
GOLF HOLES TOTAL	Holes	0	0	99	315	1,958	2,372
MULTI-USE COURTS	Courts	1	1	31	81	19	133
MULTI-USE FIELDS	Fields	2	11	99	157	19	288
OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS	Pools	2	6	57	90	239	394
RACQUETBALL COURTS	Courts	3	40	149	242	70	504
SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS	Courts	0	0	95	236	193	524
TENNIS COURTS	Courts	14	57	381	755	920	2,127
VOLLEYBALL COURTS	Courts	0	1	39	61	1	102

Table 4.11.3
Major Outdoor Recreation Areas
South Florida Region
2007

Federal Areas

National Marine Sanctuaries	Sq. Miles	State Parks	Acres
Florida Keys	1,792,000	Bahia Honda	491
National Parks	Acres	Bill Baggs Cape Florida	432
Big Cypress (Miami-Dade and Monroe County portion)	151,179	Curry Hammock	970
Biscayne	172,971	Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock	2,421
Dry Tortugas	64,657	Fort Zachary Taylor	56
Everglades (Miami-Dade and Monroe County portion)	1,469,279	Hugh Taylor Birch	175
National Wildlife Refuges		Indian Key	110
Crocodile Lake	6,800	John Pennekamp Coral Reef	63,836
Great White Heron	168,960	John U. Lloyd Beach	311
Key West	240,000	Lignumvitae Key	10,818
		Long Key	980
		Oleta River	1,033
		San Pedro	644
		The Barnacle	10
		Windley Key Fossil Reef	32

State Areas

Aquatic Preserves		Water Management District Lands	
Biscayne Bay	69,000	South Florida	
Biscayne Bay-Cape Florida to Monroe County Line	67,000	Everglades Buffer Strip	1,713
Coupon Bight	9,000	Southern Glades/Frog Pond*	33,938
Lignumvitae Key	7,000	Wildlife Management Areas and	
Florida Scenic Highways	Miles	Wildlife & Environmental Areas	
Florida Keys Scenic Highway	106	Everglades & Francis S. Taylor (Miami-Dade and Monroe County portion)*	639,180
Greenways and Trails		Florida Keys	2,854
Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail	100		

*Hunting managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a wildlife management area.

Reported County and Municipal Areas

	County		Municipal	
	Areas	Acres	Areas	Acres
Broward	145	7,412	594	7,317
Miami-Dade	272	7,317	386	17,295
Monroe	25	160	32	283