

Spruce Creek

Volusia County

Substantially Complete

Purpose for State Acquisition

Natural areas along the coast of Volusia County are becoming scarce as residential developments expand from Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach. The Spruce Creek project protects one of the largest tracts of undeveloped land left in this region along the estuary of Spruce Creek and helps to maintain the water quality of the creeks and bays here, thus protecting a fishery. Additionally, this project will conserve what may be the site of Andrew Turnbull's 18th-century plantation and provide a recreation area where people can do anything from hiking and fishing to simply learning about the plants and animals of this scenic landscape.

Manager

Volusia County.

General Description

The original Spruce Creek project area, north and west of Strickland Bay, contains good estuarine tidal swamps, hammocks, scrub, and flatwoods. It protects habitat for such endangered or threatened species as bald eagles, wood storks and manatees. The addition, between U.S. 1 and Turnbull Bay, contains good Maritime or Xeric Hammock, with live oaks, cabbage palms, and several tropical shrubs near their northern limits. Flatwoods also cover a large part of the addition, and tidal marsh with remnants of black mangrove fringes it. Disturbed areas include an historic house at the north end and the remains of a fish camp and marina east of U.S. 1. No FNAI-listed plants are known from the addition; of FNAI-listed animals, gopher tortoises have been found. The area is adjacent to several Outstanding Florida Waters, and the aquatic resources

Florida Waters, and the aquatic resources are important to both recreation and commercial fisheries. There are two archaeological sites recorded within the project area: Spruce Creek Mound site, a prehistoric and historic burial mound; and J. D. site, a prehistoric and historic shell midden and burial site. The project may also contain historic archaeological sites related to the British Colonial Period occupation in this area of NE Florida (ca. 1763–1783 AD). The area is experiencing significant growth, so developable acreage is likely to be lost relatively soon.

Public Use

This project is designated as a recreation area with uses such as cultural and environmental education, hiking, fishing, camping and picnicking.

Acquisition Planning

On December 1, 1989, the Land Acquisition Advisory Council (LAAC) added the original Spruce Creek project to the CARL Priority list. This fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Volusia County, consisted of approximately 1,718 acres, nine owners, and a 1989 taxable value of \$2,675,000. On December 7, 1990, an owner-sponsored 54-acre parcel was added to the boundary. The project was removed on December 10, 1992 due to unwilling sellers. At that time, it was less than 90 percent complete.

On December 6, 1994, LAAC added the current Spruce Creek project to the 1995 CARL Priority list. This

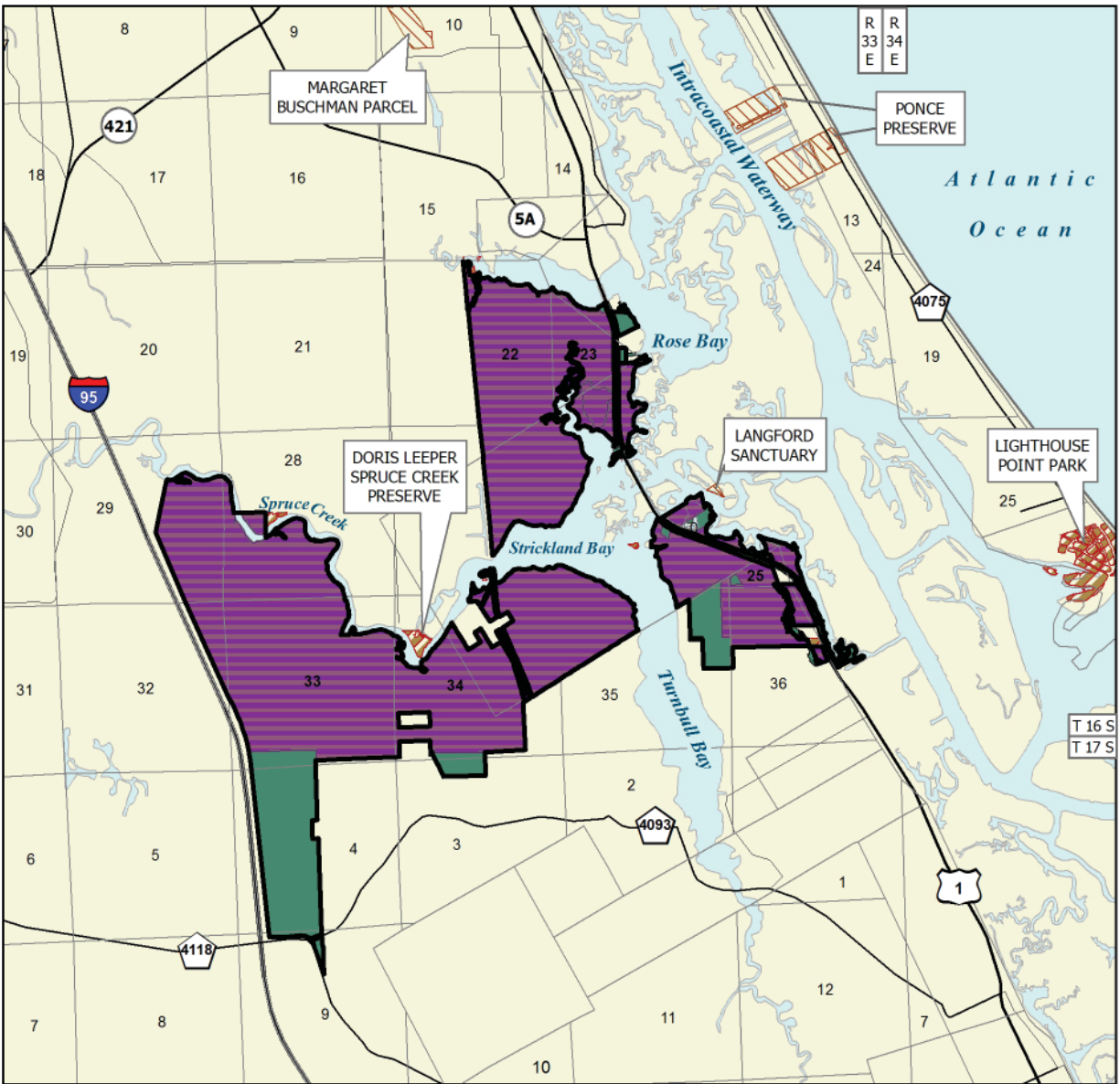
Spruce Creek FNAI Elements	
Florida Scrub-jay	G2/S2
Gopher Tortoise	G3/S3
Florida Beargrass	G3/S3
Bald Eagle	G5/S3
4 rare species are associated with the project	

Placed on List	1990*
Project Area (GIS Acres)	2,799
Acres Acquired (GIS)	2,434**
at a Cost of	\$19,118,050**
Acres Remaining (GIS)	365
Estimated (Tax Assessed) Value of	\$10,068,445

* Combined with Spruce Creek Addition in 1994

**includes funds spent and acreage acquired by BOT, SJRWMD, Volusia County, and the City of Port Orange.

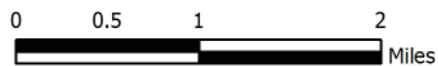
Note: 97 acres removed 10/2009 due to residential/commercial/infrastructure development.



SPRUCE CREEK

VOLUSIA COUNTY

-  Florida Forever BOT Project Boundary
-  Acquired for Conservation (Fee Simple)
-  State Owned Lands
-  Other Conservation Lands
-  Essential Parcel(s) Remaining



JANUARY 2014

fee-simple acquisition, sponsored by Volusia County, consisted of a 208-acre portion of the original project and a 316-acre addition totaling 524 acres, multiple owners, and a 1993 taxable value of \$2,124,141. The project boundary, however, included the portions of the project that had already been acquired. The resulting project acreage equaled 1,593 acres with a taxable value of \$3,406,991.

On October 24, 2002, the Acquisition & Restoration Council (ARC) approved a fee-simple 648-acre addition to the project boundary. It was sponsored by Volusia County and consisted of five owners.

On October 9, 2009, ARC voted to remove 6 sites with 54 individual parcels (97 acres) containing residential and commercial buildings or infrastructure. The total acreage removed had a just tax-assessed value of \$9,166,381.

On December 9, 2011, ARC placed this project in the Substantially Complete category of Florida Forever projects.

Coordination

Volusia County is a partner in the acquisition of this project as well as the manager. SJRWMD and City of Port Orange are acquisition partners also.

Management Policy Statement

The primary goals of management of the Spruce Creek project are to conserve, protect, manage, or restore important ecosystems, landscapes, and forests, in order to enhance or protect significant surface water, coastal, recreation, timber, fish or wildlife resources which local or state regulatory programs cannot adequately protect; to provide areas, including recreation trails, for natural-resource based recreation; and to preserve significant archaeological or historical sites.

Management Prospectus

Qualifications for state designation The Spruce Creek Recreation Area has the size, natural, cultural, and recreation resources, and surrounding population density to qualify as a State Recreation Area.

Manager Volusia County in cooperation with the State of Florida.

Conditions affecting intensity of management The project includes moderate-need tracts requiring more than basic resource management and protection. These lands will contain more highly developed resource-related recreation facilities. Large portions of the property, however, would be considered low-need



tracts requiring only basic resource management and protection. Recreation use will be incorporated but in a more dispersed and less intensive manner.

Timetable for implementing management and provisions for security and protection of infrastructure

Within the first year after acquisition, management activities will concentrate on site security and resource inventory. Volusia County will provide appropriate access to the site to maintain existing and historic uses while protecting sensitive resources on the site. The site's natural resources and listed plants and animals will be inventoried, recreation opportunities and uses identified, and a management plan formulated. Long-range plans for Spruce Creek will be specified in the management plan and will generally be directed as follows: Development of recreation facilities, a comprehensive trail management program, a comprehensive educational and interpretive program, and a comprehensive historic resource management program; restoration of disturbed areas; maintenance of natural communities through a program of selected harvest and fire management; and habitat enhancement for listed species.

Revenue-generating potential This will be determined by the concepts in the Management Plan. Some revenues will probably be generated by user and concession fees at recreation sites. Some revenues may be generated through sale of forest products, but any such revenues will be minimal. Use of small portions of the area as mitigation for development elsewhere would not only restore damaged areas on-site, but would yield revenue as well. It will be several years before potential revenue sources could be fully developed.

Cooperators in management activities Port Orange and New Smyrna Beach both will be involved in the planning of the project. The Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Atlantic Center for the Arts may prove to be valuable partners in optimizing the educational and interpretive opportunities on this site. The Nature Conservancy still owns the 150 acres that is managed by the Museum of Arts and Sciences. The Environmental Council and Sierra Club have played important roles in the early protection of the creek including sponsoring OFW status in 1986. The Southeast Volusia Historical Society and Volusia Anthropological Society have had long-standing interest in protection and interpretation of the cultural, historical and archaeological resources located on the project site. Volunteers will be invaluable in developing, managing, and interpreting this site.

Updated April 1, 2015

Management Cost Summary			
Category	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Source of Funds	Volusia County	Volusia County	Volusia County
Salary	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$6,240
OPS	\$0	\$0	\$7,712
Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
OCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
FCO	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$6,240	\$6,240	\$13,952