OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

APPROVED

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Recreation and Parks

April 15, 2011

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INTRODUCTION

Oscar Scherer State Park is located in Sarasota County (see Vicinity Map); access to the park is from U.S. Highway 41 (see Reference Map). In addition, the Vicinity Map reflects significant land and water resources existing near the park.

Acquisition of Oscar Scherer State Park began in 1956, upon the death of Elsa Scherer Burrows. She donated South Creek Ranch, the original portion of the park, to the State in memory of her father, Oscar Scherer. The size of the park increased significantly in 1991 with an acquisition using Preservation 2000 funds (see Addendum 1). To date, the park contains 1,381.62 acres.

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) granted management authority to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department), Division of Recreation and Parks (Division) on January 31, 1968. The lease stipulates a management purpose of developing, operating and maintaining the lands for outdoor recreation, park, conservation, historic and related purposes.

At Oscar Scherer State Park, public outdoor recreation and conservation is the designated single use of the property. There are no legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of this property.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARK

The purposes of Oscar Scherer State Park are to provide Florida's residents and visitors with high-quality resource-based outdoor recreation and to preserve wildlife sanctuary in what has become a highly urbanized region of Florida. The park is significant because it contains one of the last viable populations of the endangered Florida scrub-jay *(Aphelocoma coerulescens)*, contributing to the preservation of the species in Southwest Florida, and several other rare and endemic plants and animals. In addition, the protected landscape of the park is an important buffer that protects the water quality of South Creek, a tributary of Little Sarasota Bay. Equally significant is the access the park provides for camping, swimming and day use recreation, shared use trail recreation on Sarasota County's Legacy Trail, and to some of the most scenic hiking trails and vistas in Southwest Florida, for over 130,000 visitors annually.

Park Significance

- Oscar Scherer State Park contains one of the few regionally significant populations of the endangered Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) in Southwest Florida, and is an essential component in the local preservation of the species.
- The park protects over 400 acres of scrubby flatwoods, which is particularly significant along the southwestern coastal region where a high proportion of this habitat has been lost to development.

- The park protects six other types of natural communities, and their rare and endemic plants and animals including the Giant orchid (*Pteroglossapsis ecristata*), Sherman's fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermani*) and the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais*), within a highly developed coastal area.
- The park's natural landscape, which is increasingly surrounded by development, is an important buffer that protects the water quality of South Creek, a tributary of Blackburn Bay.
- The park provides camping and day use recreation within a natural landscape setting and access to rare picturesque vistas in Southwest Florida.

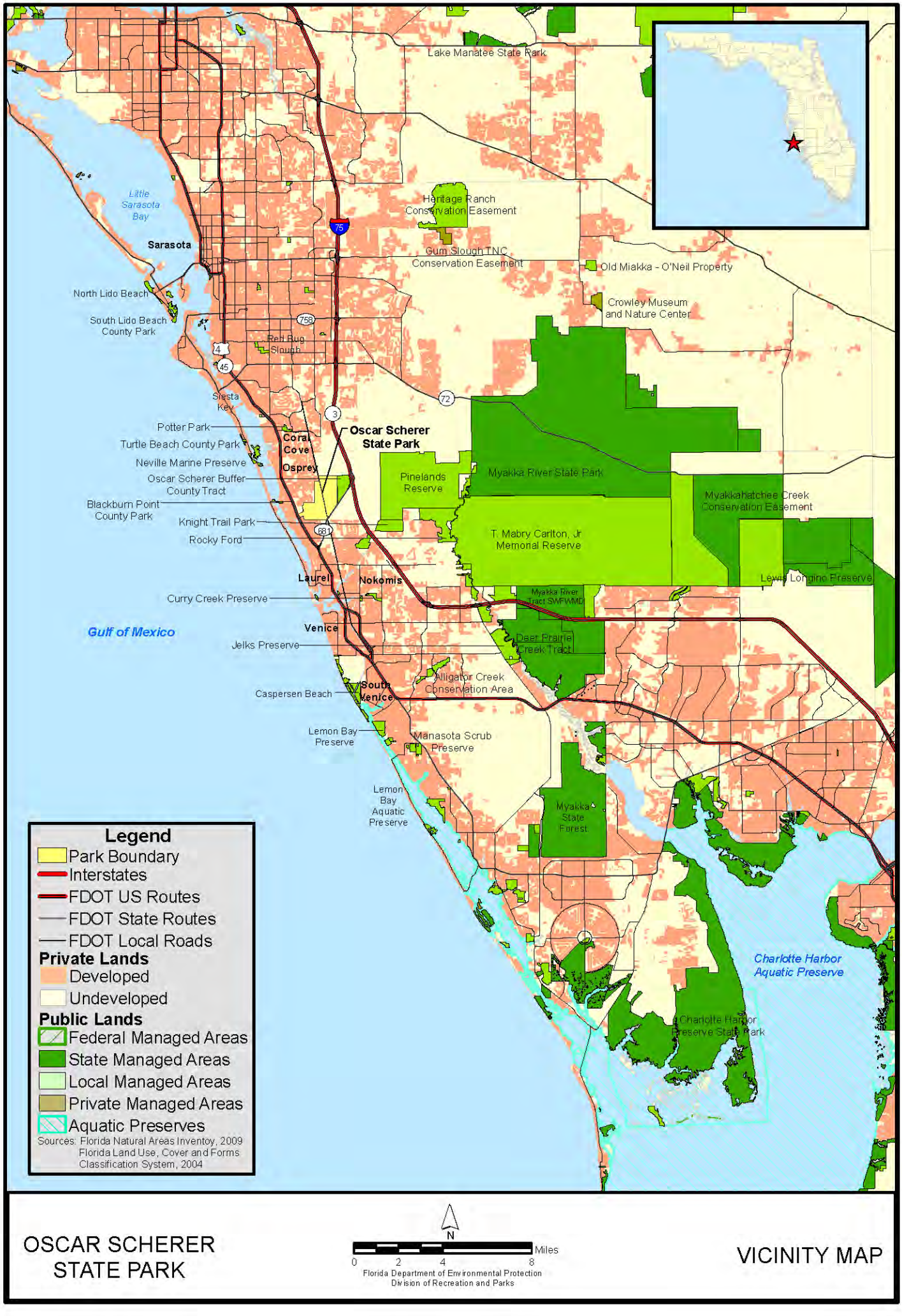
In the Division's unit classification system, this unit is the classified as a state park. In the management of a state park, the Division seeks a balance between the goals of maintaining and enhancing natural conditions, and providing public outdoor recreational opportunities. Natural resource management activities involve the management of natural systems. Park development provides public access and recreational facilities that are convenient, safe and compatible with existing resources. Program emphasis is on interpretation of the park's natural, aesthetic and educational attributes.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

This plan serves as the basic statement of policy and direction for the management of Oscar Scherer State Park as a unit of Florida's state park system. It identifies the goals, objectives, actions, criteria and standards that guide each aspect of park administration, and identifies specific measures for implementation of management objectives. The plan meets the requirements of Sections 253.034 and 259.032, Florida Statutes, Chapter 18-2, Florida Administrative Code, and is consistent with the State Lands Management Plan. With approval, this management plan will replace the October 25, 2001 approved plan.

The plan consists of three interrelated components: the Resource Management Component, the Land Use Component and the Implementation Component. The Resource Management Component provides a detailed inventory and assessment of the natural and cultural resources of the park. In addition, this component identifies resource management problems and needs, and establishes measurable management objectives for each of the park's management goals according to resource type. The Resource Management Component also provides guidance on the application of such measures as prescribed burning, exotic species removal, imperiled species management, cultural resource management and restoration of natural conditions.

The Land Use Component allocates the park's recreational resources, determines the volume of public use and develops the park's physical plan. During development of the


Lake Manatee State Park
Little Sarasota Bay
Heritage Ranch Conservation Easement
Sarasota
Gum Slough TNC Conservation Easement
Old Miakka - O'Neil Property
North Lido Beach
Crowley Museum and Nature Center
South Lido Beach County Park
Red Bug Slough
Siesta Key
Potter Park
Turtle Beach County Park
Oscar Scherer State Park
Coral Cove
Neville Marine Preserve
Osprey
Pinelands Reserve
Myakka River State Park
Oscar Scherer Buffer County Tract
Myakkahatchee Creek Conservation Easement
Blackburn Point County Park
Knight Trail Park
T. Mabry Carlton, Jr Memorial Reserve
Rocky Ford
Laurel
Nokomis
Lewis Longino Preserve
Curry Creek Preserve
Myakka River Tract SWFWMD
Gulf of Mexico
Venice
Deer Prairie Creek Tract
Jelks Preserve
Alligator Creek Conservation Area
South Venice
Caspersen Beach
Lemon Bay Preserve
Manasota Scrub Preserve
Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve
Myakka State Forest
Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve
Charlotte Harbor Preserve State Park
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FDOT US Routes
FDOT State Routes
FDOT Local Roads
Private Lands
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Public Lands
Federal Managed Areas
State Managed Areas
Local Managed Areas
Private Managed Areas
Aquatic Preserves
Sources: Florida Natural Areas Inventoy, 2009
Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System, 2004
OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK
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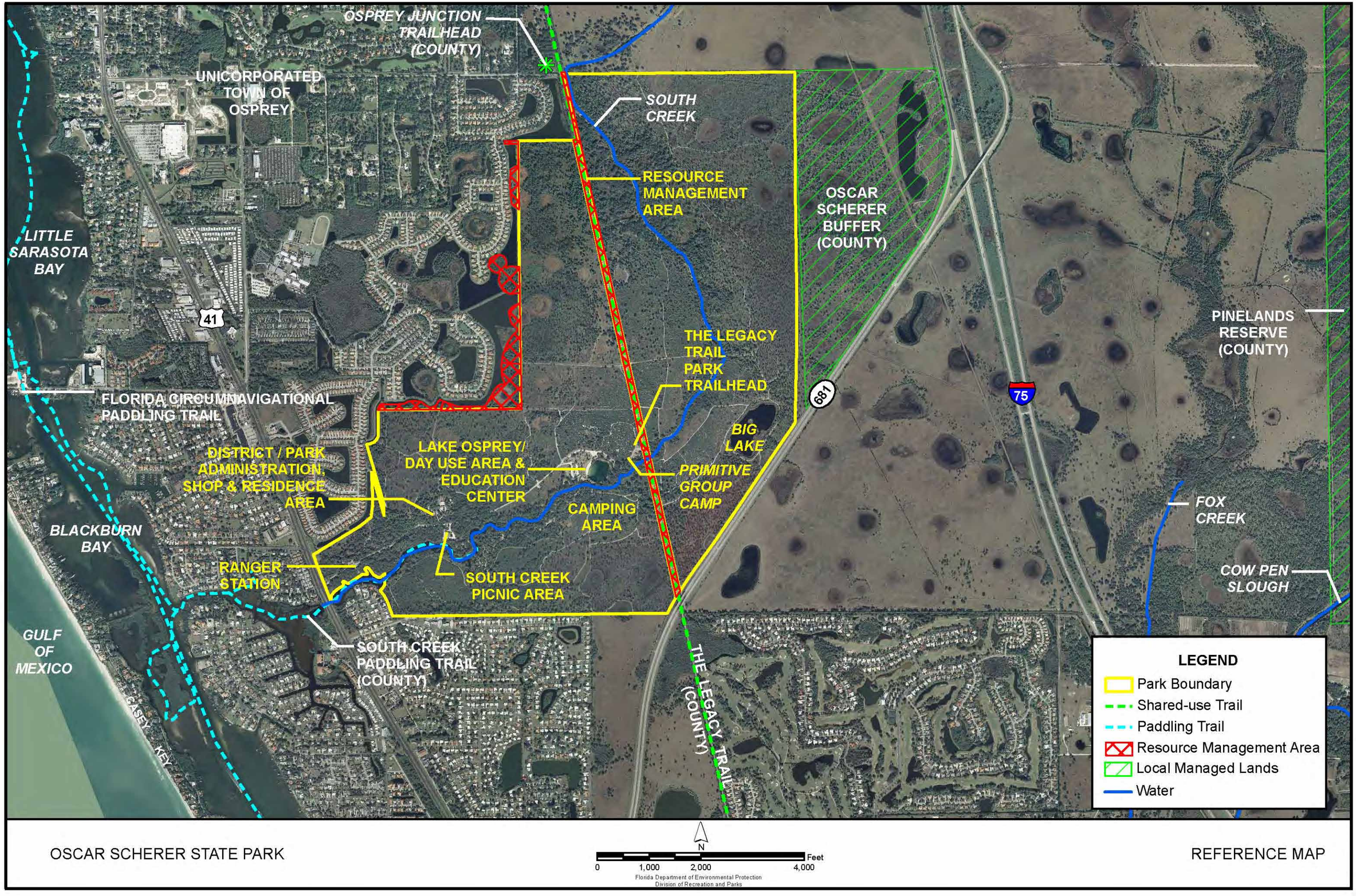
Division of Recreation and Parks
VICINITY MAP


OSPREY JUNCTION TRAILHEAD (COUNTY)
UNICORPORATED TOWN OF OSPREY
SOUTH CREEK
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA
OSCAR SCHERER BUFFER (COUNTY)
LITTLE SARASOTA BAY
41
FLORIDA CIRCUMNAVIGATIONAL PADDLING TRAIL
THE LEGACY TRAIL PARK TRAILHEAD
681
75
PINELANDS RESERVE (COUNTY)
BIG LAKE
DISTRICT / PARK ADMINISTRATION, SHOP & RESIDENCE AREA
LAKE OSPREY/ DAY USE AREA & EDUCATION CENTER
PRIMITIVE GROUP CAMP
CAMPING AREA
FOX CREEK
BLACKBURN BAY
RANGER STATION
SOUTH CREEK PICNIC AREA
COW PEN SLOUGH
GULF OF MEXICO
SOUTH CREEK PADDLING TRAIL (COUNTY)
THE LEGACY TRAIL (COUNTY)
CASEY KEY
LEGEND
Park Boundary
Shared-use Trail
Paddling Trail
Resource Management Area
Local Managed Lands
Water
OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK
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Feet
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
REFERENCE MAP

Land Use Component, intrinsic factors such as access, population, adjacent land uses, natural and cultural resources, current public uses, and existing park development are considered. Measurable objectives are established to expand recreational opportunities and to develop or improve use areas, facilities and programs.

The Implementation Component consolidates the measurable objectives and actions for each of the park's management goals. The component contains an implementation schedule and cost estimate for each objective and action. The table includes (1) measures used to evaluate the Division's implementation progress, (2) timeframes for completing actions and objectives, and (3) a general estimate of costs to complete each action and objective.

All development and resource alterations proposed in this plan is subject to the granting of appropriate permits, easements, licenses, and other required legal instruments. Approval of the management plan does not constitute an exemption from complying with appropriate local, state or federal agencies.

In the development of this plan, the Division analyzed the potential and ability to accommodate secondary management purposes within the park. Considerations given to secondary management purposes are within the context of the Division's statutory responsibilities and the resource needs and values of the park. This analysis considered the park's natural and cultural resources, management needs, aesthetic values, visitor experiences and visitation. For this park, it was determined that no secondary management purposes could be accommodated in a manner that would not interfere with the park's primary purpose of resource-based outdoor recreation and conservation. Uses such as water resource development projects, water supply projects, storm water management projects, linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry (other than those forest management activities specifically identified in this plan) are not consistent with this plan.

Visitor fees and charges are the principal source of revenue generated by the park. The Division analyzed the feasibility of the park to generate revenue to enhance management; however, it was determined that multiple-use management activities would not be appropriate as a means of generating revenues for land management. On a case-by-case basis, the Division evaluates strategies to supplement park funding and include, but are not limited to, fees, concessions and similar measures.

The Division analyzed the use of private land managers to facilitate restoration and management of this park. Decisions regarding this type of management (such as outsourcing, contracting with the private sector, use of volunteers, etc.) are determined on a case-by-case basis as necessity dictates.

MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Management Authority and Responsibility

In accordance with Chapter 258, Florida Statutes and Chapter 62D-2, Florida Administrative Code, the Division has the responsibility of developing and operating Florida's recreation and parks system. Administration is in accordance with the following policy:

> It shall be the policy of the Division of Recreation and Parks to promote the state park system for the use, enjoyment, and benefit of the people of Florida and visitors; to acquire typical portions of the original domain of the state which will be accessible to all of the people, and of such character as to emblemize the state's natural values; conserve these natural values for all time; administer the development, use and maintenance of these lands and render such public service in so doing, in such a manner as to enable the people of Florida and visitors to enjoy these values without depleting them; to contribute materially to the development of a strong mental, moral, and physical fiber in the people; to provide for perpetual preservation of historic sites and memorials of statewide significance and interpretation of their history to the people; to contribute to the tourist appeal of Florida.

The Trustees granted management authority of certain sovereign submerged lands to the Division under Management Agreement MA 68-086 (as amended January 19, 1988). The management area includes a 400-foot zone from the edge of mean high water, where a park boundary borders sovereign submerged lands fronting beaches, bays, estuarine areas, rivers or streams. Where emergent wetland vegetation exists, the zone extends waterward 400 feet beyond the vegetation. The agreement is intended to provide additional protection to resources of the park and nearshore areas and to provide authority to manage activities that could adversely impact public recreational uses.

Many operating procedures, used system-wide, are by Division internal policy. Procedures, outlined in the Division's Operations Manual (OM), cover such areas as personnel management, uniforms and personal appearance, training, signs, communications, fiscal procedures, interpretation, concessions, public use regulations, resource management, law enforcement, protection, safety and maintenance.

Park Management Goals

The following park goals express the Division's long-term intent in managing the state park.

1. Provide administrative support for all park functions.

2. Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible and maintain the restored condition.
3. Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.
4. Maintain, improve or restore imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.
5. Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance control.
6. Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.
7. Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.
8. Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals and objectives of this management plan.

Management Coordination

Management of the park is in accordance with all applicable laws and administrative rules. Identification of agencies having a major or direct role in the management of the park follows.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Forestry (DOF), assists Division staff in the development of wildfire emergency plans and provides the authorization required for prescribed burning. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), assists staff in the enforcement of state laws pertaining to wildlife, freshwater fish and other aquatic life existing within the park. In addition, the FFWCC aids the Division with wildlife management programs, including imperiled species management and Watchable Wildlife programs. The Florida Department of State (FDOS), Division of Historical Resources (DHR) assists staff to ensure protection of archaeological and historical sites.

The Division will continue to participate with the Regional Greenways Taskforce to maintain a critical landscape connection between the park and public lands located approximately 1.5 miles east of the park. Division staff coordinates with Sarasota County, the FFWCC, the Department's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) and private landowners in planning and implementing the connection of publicly managed lands to protect significant habitat linkages for native and imperiled species and provide recreational trails and other natural resource-based recreation.

The Division and Sarasota County have a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for resource management activities within The Legacy Trail right-of-way and public access to the park's amenities. In addition, the Division performs natural resource management activities on lands adjacent to the park in accordance with the county's zoning Ordinance No. 93-007. The Reference Map reflects both the MOA and zoning ordinance.

Public Participation

The Division solicited public input by conducting a public workshop on Tuesday, November 30, 2010. The purpose was to present the management plan to the public. On Wednesday, December 1, 2010, an Advisory Group meeting is held. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the Advisory Group members the opportunity to review and discuss the management plan (see Addendum 2 for Advisory Group Composition and Meeting Report).

Other Designations

Oscar Scherer State Park is not within an Area of Critical State Concern as defined in Section 380.05, Florida Statutes, and it is not presently under study for such designation. The park is a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System, administered by Department's Office of Greenways and Trails.

All waters within the park have an Outstanding Florida Waters designation, pursuant to Chapter 62-302, Florida Administrative Code. In addition, the Department classified surface waters in the park as Class III water. This park is not within or adjacent to an aquatic preserve as designated under the Florida Aquatic Preserve Act of 1975 (Section 258.35, Florida Statutes).

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMPONENT

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Chapter 258, Florida Statutes, the Division of Recreation and Parks has implemented resource management programs for preserving for all time the representative examples of natural and cultural resources of statewide significance under its administration. This component of the unit plan describes the natural and cultural resources of the park and identifies the methods that will be used to manage them. The management measures expressed in this plan is consistent with the Department's overall mission in ecosystem management. Addendum 3 contains Cited References.

The Division's philosophy of resource management is natural systems management. Primary emphasis is placed on restoring and maintaining, to the degree possible, the natural processes that shaped the structure, function and species composition of Florida's diverse natural communities as they occurred in the original domain. Single species management for imperiled species is appropriate in state parks when the maintenance, recovery or restoration of a species or population is complicated due to constraints associated with long-term restoration efforts, unnaturally high mortality or insufficient habitat. Single species management should be compatible with the maintenance and restoration of natural processes, and should not imperil other native species or seriously compromise park values.

The Division's management goal for cultural resources is to preserve sites and objects that represent Florida's cultural periods, significant historic events or persons. This goal often entails active measures to stabilize, reconstruct or restore resources, or to rehabilitate them for appropriate public use.

Because park units are often components of larger ecosystems, their proper management can be affected by conditions and events that occur beyond park boundaries. Ecosystem management is implemented through a resource management evaluation program that assesses resource conditions, evaluates management activities and refines management actions, and reviews local comprehensive plans and development permit applications for park/ecosystem impacts.

The entire park is divided into management zones that delineate areas on the ground that are used to reference management activities (see Management Zones Map). The shape and size of each zone may be based on natural community types, burn zones, and the location of existing roads and natural fire breaks. It is important to note that all burn zones are management zones; however, not all management zones include fire-dependent natural communities.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT

Natural Resources

Topography

The park is in the coastal lowlands topographic division, and on the western edge of the Gulf Coastal Lowlands physiographic zone. Topography is low relief; elevations range from eight to 16 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Topography has been slightly altered by the excavation of drainage ditches, dredging activities in South Creek and excavation of pits at several sites, two of which supplied fill for highway construction. A raised railroad bed is now a recreational trail that bisects the park from north to south. The park is traversed by South Creek, a brackish tidal stream that drains agricultural land, as well as residential communities, to the north.

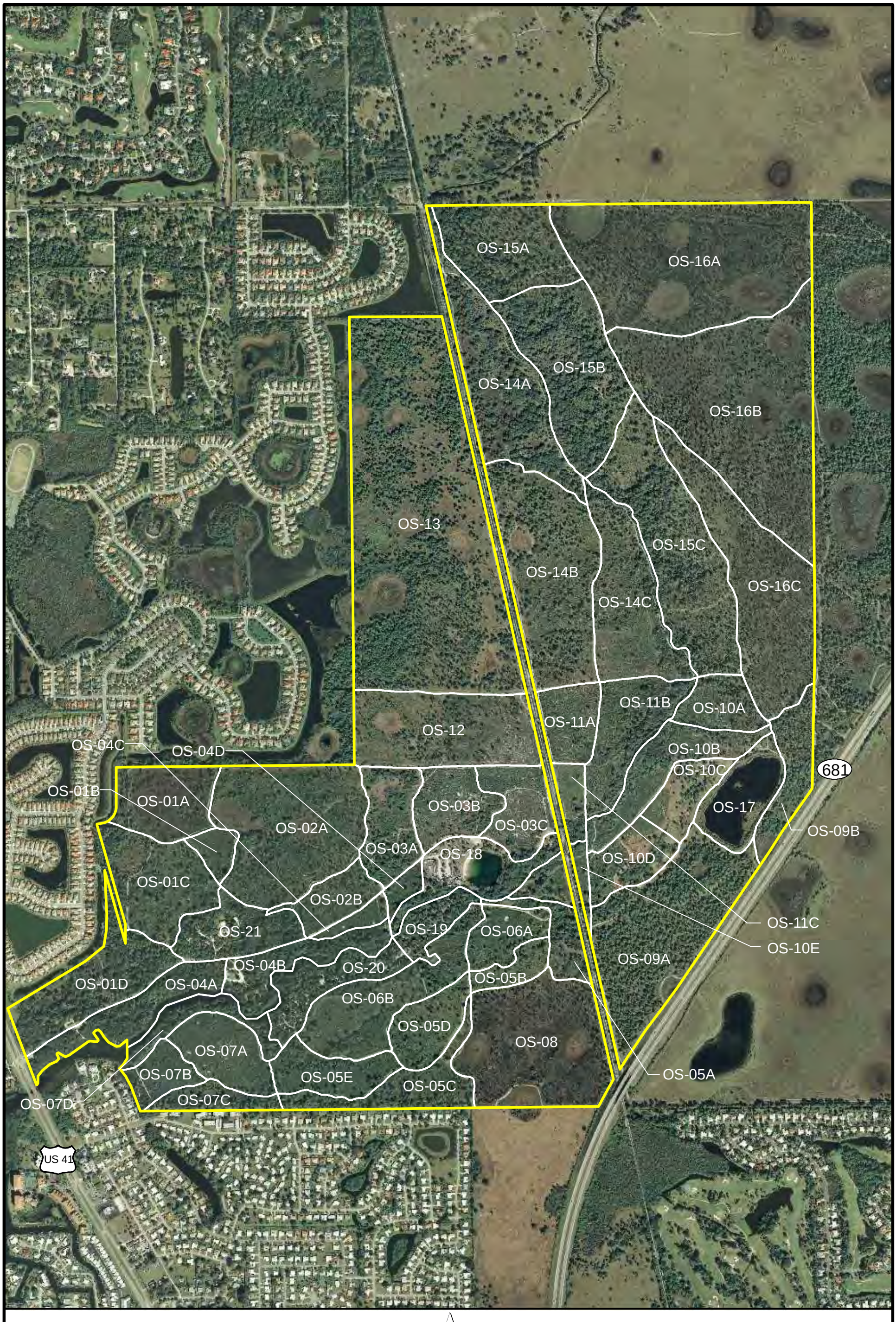
Geology

The substrate at the park is a recently emerged submarine plain consisting of marine sediments overlying a limestone base. The upper limestone formation exposed along the banks of South Creek is the Charlton, a division of the Choctawhatchee Stage, in the Miocene Series.

Precise geological data for the park became available in 1989, when the Florida Geological Survey drilled to a depth of 145 feet and extracted a stratigraphic column. A letter from the Surveyors to the park, dated March 15, 1990, summarized the findings as follows:

> "During the Miocene period, approximately 5 to 23 million years ago, deposition of carbonates with variable amounts of sand, shells, clay and phosphate occurred. This variable package of marine sediments constitutes the Hawthorn Group, which consisted of the Arcadia Formation overlain by the Peace River Formation. The Oscar Scherer site was located offshore of the Miocene "Florida" mainland. Between the Miocene and Pleistocene, a period of uplift and/or erosion occurred, thus removing the original Peace River Formation lithology. Approximately 1 to 2 million years ago, the near surface sediments from the Hawthorn Group were reworked, mixed with shoreline sands and shells, and deposited as shell beds. During this time, the area was in a high-energy shoreline environment—either sea level had fallen since the Miocene or the Florida Platform was uplifting, or both. Finally, recent sands were deposited in the area probably as dunes and beach ridges. This was the most recent geologic event. It was followed by deposition of topsoil and growth of vegetation."

The park lies within the Gulf Coastal Lowlands geomorphic zone. In reference to ancient shorelines, the area lies on the Pamlico marine terrace that was developed about 340,000 years ago. This terrace is characterized by elevations ranging from eight to



OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

MANAGEMENT ZONES MAP

25 feet above mean sea level (MSL).

Soils

There are 11 types of soil within the park. Two types of soil map units predominate: unit 33, Pomello fine sand, which is well drained, and unit 10, EauGallie and Myakka fine sands, which are somewhat poorly drained (see Soils Map). These soils correlate well with the park's two dominant natural communities: scrubby flatwoods and mesic flatwoods, respectively. Map units, which are made up of two or more major soils, are based on similarity of use and management (Hyde et al. 1991). The predominant soils in the park developed from unconsolidated acid marine deposits. Addendum 4 contains a complete description of all soils occurring in the park.

Erosion due to trampling occasionally occurs on the banks of South Creek in the campground and should be monitored. Upstream from the former railroad corridor, the stream channel is deeper and wider now than historically and can still be characterized as a blackwater stream. The erosion along its banks, as they are re-shaped by floods, can be considered a natural process. The stream will probably meander more in the future.

Minerals

Before the establishment of the park, marl was mined for highway construction. The excavation pit, known as Lake Osprey, is currently used for recreation, including swimming and fishing. Another borrow pit, located along the park's southwestern boundary in Management zone 17, was created during the construction of State Road 681 and is used for fishing and birdwatching. No other mineral resources are known to occur at this park.

Hydrology

The park lies in the South Creek drainage basin. South Creek is one of the numerous small creeks that drain the flat land along this portion of the Gulf Coast. The creek flows into the park from the north in a southeasterly direction, then turns southwesterly to flow under a bridge along the rail-to-trail corridor (The Legacy Trail) and out to Blackburn Bay. A sill of rock rubble across the bottom of the creek at the bridge has caused a pool to form upstream. The land bordering the creek is often higher and better drained than lands that are more distal and supports a more xeric scrubby flatwoods community where Florida scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens)* are found. During the 1950s, the creek was canalized upstream from the railroad bridge and the spoil placed along either side of the channel. Downstream of the bridge, where the creek is tidally influenced, the channel widens and becomes shallow. Several piles of spoil along this part of the creek reveal that dredging for navigation occurred, probably during the 1950s. This section of the creek also reveals three old artificial drainage channels extending northward from the creek. Surface water from residential areas north and south of the park flow into South Creek during flood events. Due to recent flooding on the main park drive, a significantly larger culvert was installed under the road between the entrance station and the South Creek Picnic Area.

Legend

Soils

- 8-Delray fine sand, depressional
- 10-EauGallie and Myakka fine sands
- 13-Felda and Pompano fine sand, frequently flooded
- 15-Floridana and Gator soils, depressional
- 22-Holopaw fine sand, depressional
- 24-Kesson and Wulfert mucks, frequently flooded
- 29-Orsino fine sand
- 31-Pineda fine sand
- 32-Pits and Dumps
- 33-Pomello fine sand
- 39-St. Augustine fine sand
- Water

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OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

N

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Date of aerial: 2008

SOILS MAP

Other surface water features in the park include several depression marsh communities and several man-made depressions. Two depressions resulting from excavation for road building include Lake Osprey, at the eastern end of the main park drive, and Big Lake, a rectangular-shaped borrow pit with a surface area of 11.5 acres, located southeast of South Creek and parallel to State Road 681. Other excavated pits include a rectangular-shaped pit, located west of the railroad tracks and north of original park lands, that periodically holds water during the rainy season and is gradually being filled with vegetative debris from park operations. Another man-made pit, located north of Lake Osprey in Management zone 3C, typically holds water during flood conditions and is being considered for the deposition of spoil removed from the banks of South Creek.

Ditches occurring on either side of the rail-to-trail corridor, now used as the county's recreation trail, drain into South Creek. Other surface hydrological disturbances in the park's natural communities have been mitigated somewhat by plugging several ditches that drained wet depressions on both sides of South Creek.

A 425-foot deep well is located 600 feet northwest of Lake Osprey in a scrubby flatwoods community. It is used to pump water into the lake at a rate of 300 gallons/minute, and serves as a source of water during prescribed burns. Without this water source, the artificial lake would soon stagnate and evaporate during drier months. The lake is one of only two public access freshwater bodies in Sarasota County providing recreational fishing and swimming. In spite of the water pumped into the lake, average water level appears to have gradually dropped by as much as 2.5 feet (J. Roche, Park Manager, pers. comm.). This may indicate a general lowering of the water table locally.

Three aerators in Lake Osprey maintain conditions suitable for fish and recreational swimming. In 1997, as part of the Urban Fisheries Program, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) stocked the lake with channel catfish, providing additional recreational opportunities. Channel catfish up to 24 inches long have been caught by recreational anglers. Additional fish species have infrequently been stocked, most recently sunfish in early 2007. Microalgal growth appears to be controlled by the aerators with only one macroalgae occurrence that resolved itself without use of chemical control.

Natural Communities

This section of the management plan describes and assesses each of the natural communities found in the state park. It also describes the desired future condition of each natural community and identifies the actions that will be required to bring the community to its desired future condition (DFC). Discussion of specific management objectives and actions for natural community management, exotic species management, imperiled species management and restoration is in the Resource Management Program

section of this component.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) developed the system of classifying natural communities employed in this plan. The premise of this system is that physical factors such as climate, geology, soil, hydrology and fire frequency generally determine the species composition of an area, and that areas that are similar with respect to those factors will tend to have natural communities with similar species compositions. Obvious differences in species composition can occur, however, despite similar physical conditions. In other instances, physical factors are substantially different, yet the species compositions are quite similar. For example, coastal strand and scrub, two communities with similar species compositions, generally have quite different climatic environments that necessitate different management programs. Some physical influences, such as fire frequency may vary from FNAI's descriptions for certain natural communities in this plan.

At the point in time when the park's natural communities have reached their desired future condition, they are considered to be in a maintenance status and share certain basic characteristics and management requirements. These include the maintenance of the optimal fire return intervals for fire dependant communities, the maintenance control of non-native plant and animal species, the maintenance of natural hydrological functions (including historic water flows and water quality), the maintenance of proper vegetative structure that represents the natural diversity of the community, the maintenance of healthy populations of plant and wildlife species (including those that are imperiled or endemic), and the maintenance of intact ecotones between natural communities across the landscape.

The park contains seven distinct natural communities as well as ruderal and developed areas (see Natural Communities Map). A list of known plants and animals occurring in the park is contained in Addendum 5.

MESIC FLATWOODS

Desired future condition: Predominant canopy trees will be longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris)* and/or South Florida slash pine (*Pinus elliotti var. densa*). Native herbaceous groundcover will occur over at least 50 percent of the area. Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum)*, cogongrass *(Imperata cylindrica)* and other exotic groundcover species will be absent. The saw palmetto *(Serenoa repens)* shrub component will comprise no more than 50 percent of total understory cover, and will be less than 4 feet in height. Shrub species will include saw palmetto, gallberry *(Ilex glabra)*, fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida)*, runner oak *(Quercus pumila)*, dwarf live oak *(Quercus minima)*, shiny blueberry *(Vaccinium myrsinites)*, and deerberry *(Vaccinium stamineum).* Exotic species will also be absent in the understory layer. There will be few if any large trunks of saw palmetto along the ground. The Optimal Fire Return Interval for this community will be 1-3 years.

Legend

- 8 - Mesic Flatwoods-759.42 ac.
- 9 - Mesic Hammock-49.75 ac.
- 16 - Scrubby Flatwoods-421.40 ac.
- 31 - Depression Marsh-69.17 ac.
- 55 - Blackwater Stream-25.61 ac.
- 78 - Marine Tidal Marsh-0.73 ac.
- 79 - Marine Tidal Swamp-0.62 ac.
- 84 - Ruderal-14.32 ac.
- 85 - Developed-55.20 ac.

US 41

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OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

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0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Date of aerial: 2008

NATURAL COMMUNITIES MAP

Description and assessment: This is the most extensive natural community type in the park, covering most of the area peripheral to the scrubby flatwoods along South Creek. It typically has an open canopy of South Florida slash pine, but at several sites, longleaf pine is prevalent. Saw palmetto dominates the shrub layer in portions of the flatwoods not previously disturbed by mechanical treatment for improved pasture. Pine trees and saw palmettos have become relatively dense at several locations where fire has been infrequent. At other locations, the impact of agricultural management for improved pasture is evident in the bahiagrass that is common in the ground layer, reflecting the historic use of the property as cattle range.

Other species present are typical of flatwoods and include wiregrass *(Aristida stricta var. beyrichiana)*, gallberry, fetterbush, blueberry, pawpaw *(Asimina reticulat*a), tarflower *(Bejaria racemosa)*, gopher apple *(Licania michauxii)* and lopsided Indian grass (*Sorghastrum secundum*). Animals include cotton mouse *(Peromyscus gossypinus)*, cotton rat *(Sigmodon hispidus)*, box turtle *(Terrapene carolina bauri)*, southern black racer *(Coluber constrictor priapus)*, narrowmouth toad *(Gastrophryne carolinensis*), pine warbler *(Dendroica pinus)*, red - tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis, great horned owl (Bubo virginianus), white - tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and bobcat (Felis rufus) Where there has been soil disturbance, exotics have invaded the natural communities. These include Brazilian pepper *(Schinus terebinthifolius)* and cogongrass. Species diversity and natural community integrity will benefit not only from controlling these exotics, but also from increased use of fire.

General management measures: Measures to restore mesic flatwoods include mechanical treatment and exotic plant and animal management. Roller-chopping is used where saw palmettos are too dense. Logging is used where pines are too dense. A tree-cutter may be used where oaks have invaded flatwoods due to infrequent fire. Improved pastures are primarily restored using prescribed fire and the treatment of exotic plants. Identification of the most effective herbicides to remove bahiagrass is underway. The park manages contracts to control exotic plants and animals as discussed in the Resource Management Program section of this component.

MESIC HAMMOCK

Desired future condition (Prairie Mesic Hammock—a variant of Mesic Hammock): Dominant vegetation will be cabbage palm, live oak or a mixture of the two species. Common species in the relatively open understory will include saw palmetto, wax myrtle *(Myrica cerifera)*, stopper (*Eugenia axillaris*), marlberry *(Ardisia escallonioides)* and epiphytes. Soils may include a thick leaf layer underlain by mixed sands and organics over a limestone substrate. Soil disturbance from feral hogs *(Sus scrofa)* will no longer occur. Organic substrates will not have been consumed by severe fires. Prairie mesic hammock will be allowed to burn with the adjacent fire type community, allowing fires to naturally burn across ecotones.

Description and assessment: Several hammocks, dominated by cabbage palm (Sabal palmetto) and live oak, occur along the floodplain of South Creek. As is typical, saw palmetto rings the perimeter, but inside the hammock, the understory is open. These probably developed in the fire shadow created by the creek or its tributaries. Wax myrtle, water oak *(Quercus nigra)*, poison ivy *(Toxicodendron radicans),* epiphytes and greenbrier (*Smilax* spp.) are present. Soil disturbance due to feral hogs is common. The hammocks are favored by some migrating warblers and other songbirds in the spring and fall.

General management measures: Prescribed fire should be allowed to burn across ecotones and into the hammock as would occur naturally. The influence of fire shadows should be taken into account, and fires should typically not be so severe as to completely consume the upper organic soil component. Removal of feral hogs and exotic plants as they occur should continue.

SCRUBBY FLATWOODS

Desired future condition: Pine trees will be widely scattered in scrubby flatwoods at Oscar Scherer State Park. A diverse shrubby understory with regularly-occurring patches of bare sand will exist. There will be a scrub oak "canopy" varying in height from three to eight feet and there will be a variety of oak age classes and heights across the landscape. Dominant shrubs will include sand live oak *(Quercus geminat*a*)*, myrtle oak *(Quercus myrtifolia)*, Chapman's oak *(Quercus chapmanii)*, saw palmetto and ericaceous plants. Cover by herbaceous species will often occur well below 40 percent, the remaining area will be accounted for by the prevalence of bare patches of sand. The Optimal Fire Return Interval for this community is two to six years, and the aim will be to achieve a mosaic of burned and unburned areas.

Description and assessment: This community is the focal community type at Oscar Scherer State Park due to the population of Florida scrub-jays: a very rare occurrence in modern southwestern Florida. This community typically has an open canopy of South Florida slash pine with a relatively dense shrub understory, including several species of scrub oaks: myrtle oak, sand live oak, Chapman's oak, and bluejack oak *(Quercus incana)*, but not scrub oak (*Quercus inopina*). Saw palmetto is also present, as are coastalplain staggerbush *(Lyonia fruticosa)*, tallow wood *(Ximenia americana)*, and sand holly *(Ilex ambigua)*. The ground layer includes wiregrass, gopher apple, silk grass (*Pityopsis graminifolia)*, and the exotic, bahiagrass.

The scrubby flatwoods community in the park tends to be more mesic than other scrubby flatwoods sites in the state, for example Archbold Biological Station (Lake Placid) where much of what is known about Florida scrub-jay ecology and habitat management originated. Regrowth after fires is faster than at drier sites. It may take only two to three years for shrub vegetation to reach a height that is optimal for Florida scrub-jay (4-6 feet), compared to three to five years at drier sites. Similarly, within five

to six years the shrubs have grown beyond the optimum height range, compared to seven to 15 years required for this much growth in drier scrubby flatwoods. One consequence of the faster growth rates is the need for more frequent prescribed burning.

General management measures: Prescribed burning is planned in such a way that only a portion of any given Florida scrub-jay territory is burned at a time, with the goal of maintaining a stable population while also managing the limited amount of habitat. The targeted fire return interval is about 6 years. Some selective cutting of large scrub oaks will be done in overgrown scrubby flatwoods where fire has not sufficiently reduced their density. This includes scrubby flatwoods habitat in proximity to the main park drive and park administrative facilities. The distribution and coverage of bare sandy patches using mechanical treatment of understory, and other techniques that may eventually prove effective, will be increased. Areas infested with bahiagrass and cogongrass will be restored using herbicides identified in tests currently being conducted in mesic flatwoods. Removal of other exotic plants and control of feral hogs, probably via contract will continue.

DEPRESSION MARSH

Desired future condition: Emergent herbaceous species will be dominant over most of the marsh, and there will be an open vista. Open water, if present, will occur primarily in the deeper portions of the marsh. Little accumulation of dead grassy fuels will exist due to frequent burning; one will often see the soil surface through the vegetation when the community is not inundated. Dominant vegetation will include maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon)*, panicgrass (*Panicum* spp.), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), arrowhead (*Sagittaria* spp), buttonbush *(Cephalanthus occidentalis)*, St. John's wort *(Hypericum cistifolium)*, and Carolina willow *(Salix caroliniana*). The Optimal Fire Return Interval for this community is one to three years depending on the fire frequency of adjacent communities.

Description and assessment: There are over 20 depression marshes or portions of marshes within the park. These range in size from about 0.2 acre to 3 acres. They are characteristically shallow and rounded, with concentric bands of herbaceous vegetation. The perimeter of the marshes is typically ringed with saw palmetto and wax myrtle. Within the marshes are found St. John's wort, maidencane, flattop goldenrod *(Euthamia caroliniana)*, yellowtop *(Flaveria linearis)*, spikerush *(Eleocharis baldwinii)*, arrowhead and pickerelweed. These wetlands provide important breeding and foraging habitat for many amphibians, including oak toad (*Bufo quercicus)*, cricket frog *(Acris gryllus dorsalis)*, pinewood treefrog *(Hyla femoralis)*, barking treefrog (*Hyla gratiosa)*, squirrel treefrog *(Hyla squirella)*, narrowmouth toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis)*, eastern spadefoot toad *(Scaphiopus holbrooki)*, and Florida gopher frog *(Rana capito aesopus)*. Sandhill crane *(Grus canadensis pratensis)* nest in the marshes, and white ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), green heron (*Butorides virescens*), little blue heron (*Egretta*

cerulea), tricolored heron (*Egretta tricolor*), and wood stork *(Mycteria americana)* forage in them.

The marshes tend to burn when the surrounding mesic flatwoods does. This prevents shrubs from invading. Park staff continually monitors for melaleuca trees (*Melaleuca quinquenervia)* for early detection and removal of this highly invasive species. Many of the depression marshes have some type of drainage ditch eventually connecting to South Creek. Some of these have been blocked by means of an earthen plug. Most recently, in 1997, five earthen plugs were placed in man-made ditches draining depression marshes in Management zones OS-016A and OS-016B, east of South Creek, as part of a mitigation project.

General management measures: Fires should be allowed to burn into marshes from adjacent communities. Exotic plants and animals should be removed as they occur. Finally, hydrological restoration should be performed as feasible, including additional ditch blocks where needed, and continued maintenance of existing blocks.

BLACKWATER STREAM

Desired future condition: A perennial watercourse will continue where rainfall and runoff are slowly discharged into the stream through organic soils present in wetlands along its course. The tannin-stained waters flow over sandy bottoms overlain by organic matter. Emergent and floating vegetation will occur but will be limited by seasonal fluctuations in water levels. Marshes that occurred along the course of the stream will be restored. Final amelioraton of dredging disturbance and alterations is complete and adjacent natural communities are preserved.

Description and assessment: The entire park is located in the watershed of South Creek, a blackwater stream which has been canalized upstream of the railroad bridge, draining several upstream marshes. A survey conducted in November 1993, documented the following fish species in the upper reaches of the creek: bluefin killifish *(Lucania goodie)*, golden topminnow *(Fundulus chrysotus)*, mosquitofish *(Gambusia holbrooki)*, inland silverside *(Menidia beryllina)*, Irish pompano (*Diapterus auratus*), spotfin mojarra *(Eucinostomus argenteus)*, hogchoker *(Trinectes maculatus)*, sailfin molly *(Poecilia latipinna)*, Everglades pygmy sunfish *(Elassoma evergladei)*, bluespotted sunfish *(Enneacanthus gloriosus)*, warmouth *(Lepomis gulosus)*, spotted sunfish (*Lepomis punctatus*), fat sleeper *(Dormitator maculates)*, and swamp darter *(Etheostoma fusiforme)*.

A small dam, constructed before the property became a park, is located in the creek downstream from the railroad bridge. It may have acted to separate freshwater from brackish water. The segment of the creek west of the dam was tidally influenced. A remnant of the dam, which is no longer much of a barrier to tidal influx, is visible under the footbridge at the Nature Center. Motorized vessels are not allowed within the park boundary, therefore erosion from boat wakes does not occur.

A biophysical survey of the tidal portion of the creek, in 1973-74, described it as having low turbidity with somewhat high nutrient content. Current velocities ranged from 0.42 to 0.16 per second, depending on the run of the tide (Stubensky 1974). Since the last plan was approved, in conjunction with a South Creek basin mitigation project, a two-year program of surface water monitoring was implemented.

General management measures: Maintain exotic plant control along the stream banks. Perform additional water quality and quantity sampling as prudent relative to events occurring in the stream watershed.

MARINE TIDAL SWAMP

Desired future condition: Dense low mangrove forests will be present along flat, low energy intertidal and supratidal shorelines. The dominant plants will include red mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*), black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), and white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*), and buttonwood. There will be little to no understory beneath the dense tree canopy. When present, the understory can include seaside oxeye (*Borrichia frutescens*), perennial glasswort (*Sarcocornia perennis*), and giant leather fern (*Acrostichum danaeifolium*). Soils will range from saturated to inundated and vary considerably from deep mucks to fine sands but always contain high salt content limiting plant diversity. No exotic invasive plants will be present in the mangrove fringe along South Creek.

Description and assessment: This community is limited to an elongated zone approximately one acre in size along the banks of South Creek at the western extremity of the park. Red black and white mangroves are present. White mangroves, in particular, are top-killed occasionally by freezes that reach this latitude in mid-winter.

General management measures: Monitor for exotic invasive species and remove them as necessary.

MARINE TIDAL MARSH

Desired future condition: Expanses of grasses, rushes and sedges will occur along the coastline. Cordgrass species (*Spartina* spp.) and black needlerush are indicator species that typically form dense stands and will be delineated by elevation. Other common plants will include perennial glasswort, seaside oxeye daisy. Soils will range from saturated to inundated and vary considerably from deep musks to fine sands but always contain a high salt content limiting biodiversity of plants. No exotic invasive plants will be present in the tidal marsh fringe along South Creek.

Description and assessment: This type of marsh covers a small area bordering the banks of South Creek at the western extremity of the park. The creek here is wide, tidally influenced and brackish to marine. Cordgrass, needle rush *(Juncus roemerianus)*, and sea myrtle *(Baccharis halimifolia)* are present.

General management measures: Monitor for exotic invasive plants and remove them as necessary.

RUDERAL

The ruderal areas within the park will be managed to remove priority invasive plant species (EPPC Category I and II species). Other management measures include limited restoration efforts designed to minimize the effect of the ruderal areas on adjacent natural areas. Cost-effectiveness, return on investment and consideration of other higher priority restoration projects within the park will determine the extent of restoration measures in ruderal areas.

DEVELOPED

Desired future condition: The developed areas within the park will be managed to minimize their effect on adjacent natural areas. Priority invasive plant species (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category I and II species) will be removed from all developed areas. Other management measures will include proper stormwater management and development guidelines that are compatible with prescribed fire management in adjacent natural areas.

Description and assessment: A campground with 104 standard campsites and a developed campfire circle are located along the south bank of South Creek at the center of the original portion of the park. North of the Creek, also in the original portion of the park, are the South Creek picnic area, the Lake Osprey picnic, swimming, and interpretive facilities, a group camp site, a residence site for park rangers, and a developed site that contains District 4 Administration facilities, Park Management facilities, and residences for the Park Manager, Assistant Park Manager, and the District Bureau Chief. In addition, there is development around the park entrance station, including a parking lot and picnic site. Picnic tables and benches have also been placed throughout the park along hiking trails through natural communities.

General management measures: Monitor and remove exotic plants, including those that have been introduced by park campers and visitors.

Imperiled Species

Imperiled species are those that are (1) tracked by FNAI as critically imperiled (G1, S1) or imperiled (G2, S2); or (2) listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), (FFWCC) or the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) as endangered, threatened or of special concern.

The park contains 13 listed plant species and 23 listed animal species. Plants include many-flower grass pink (*Calopogon multiflorus*), Tampa mock vervain (*Glandularia tampensis*), pine lily *(Lilium catesbaei)*, Florida coontie *(Zamia pumila)*, and giant air plant *(Tillandsia fasciculata* var. *densispica)*. Among animals, all designated species are vertebrates, including the common snook *(Centropomus undecimalis)*, the Florida gopher

frog, four species of reptiles, 29 species of birds and four species of mammals.

The Florida scrub-jay population in the park represents a "crown jewel" in Sarasota County's draft Habitat Conservation Plan (presentation by Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Cornell University, to the Board of County Commissioners, May 22, 2007). It has been intensively studied since 1988. Isolated Florida scrub-jay territories occur in the surrounding suburbs and birds frequently disperse from these into the park.

The goal at Oscar Scherer State Park is to support a population of Florida scrub-jays in southwestern Florida large enough to have a reasonable chance of surviving for the next 100 years. The effects of habitat management on the birds are evaluated through banding and monthly surveys of survival, combined with annual surveys of reproductive success.

The Florida scrub-jay population at Oscar Scherer State Park depends on the scrubby flatwoods habitat in the park for food and nesting habitat. If it becomes overgrown, there are no adjacent lands with similar habitat for them to use. Therefore, maintaining the scrubby flatwoods at the proper stage of growth is essential, and it must be done incrementally so as not to reduce too much scrub vegetation at one time. In spite of efforts to maintain optimal habitat, the population of Florida scrub-jays in the park has steadily declined over about the last 10 years, and is currently below the estimated number necessary to sustain a viable population during the next century.

West Indian manatees have been observed in South Creek, as far upstream as the footbridge at the recreational building.

If issues concerning imperiled species and their management arise, staff will coordinate with FFWCC to ensure that management and monitoring of imperiled animal species is consistent with statewide recovery goals.

Table 1 contains a list of all known imperiled species within the park and identifies their status as defined by various entities. It also identifies the types of management actions that are currently being taken by Division staff or others, and identifies the current level of monitoring effort. The codes used under the column headings for management actions and monitoring level are defined following the table. Explanations for federal and state status as well as FNAI global and state rank are provided in Addendum 5.

Table 1: Imperiled Species Inventory						
	Imperiled Species Status				Management Actions	Monitoring Level
	FWCC	USFWS	FDACS	FNAI		
PLANTS						Tier
Many-flowered grass pink *Calopogon multiflorus*			LE	G2G3/S2S3	1,8,10	1
Wild coco; Ground coco *Eulophia alata*			LT		1,2,7,8,10	1
Tampa vervain *Glandularia tampensis*			LE	G2/S2	1,2,7,8,10	1
Hairy beach sunflower *Helianthus debilis* var. *vestitus*				G5T2/S2	2,7,8,10	1
Drysand pinweed *Lechea divaricata*			LE	G2/S2	1,2,7,8	1
Pine lily; Catesby's lily *Lilium catesbaei*			LT		1,2,6,7,8,10	1
Erect prickly-pear *Opuntia stricta*			LT		1,2,8	1
Yellow butterwort *Pinguicula lutea*			LT		4,8	1
Giant orchid; Wild coco *Pteroglossapsis ecristata*			LT	G2G3/S2	1,2,7,8,10	1
Medusahead airplant *Tillandsia balbisiana*			LT			1
Giant air plant *Tillandsia fasciculata* var. *densispica*			LE			1
Spreading air plant *Tillandsia utriculata*			LE			1
Redmargin zephyr lily *Zephyranthes simpsonii*			LT		1,2,4	1
AMPHIBIANS						
Florida gopher frog *Rana capito*	LS			G3,S3	1,2,7	1
REPTILES						
American alligator *Alligator mississippiensis*	LS	T(S/A)		G5,S4	2,10,13	1
Gopher tortoise *Gopherus polyphemus*	ES			G3,S3	1,2,6,7,10,13	2

Table 1: Imperiled Species Inventory						
	Imperiled Species Status				Management Actions	Monitoring Level
	FWCC	USFWS	FDACS	FNAI		
Eastern indigo snake *Drymarchon couperi*	LT	LT		G3,S3	1,2,6,7,13	1
BIRDS						
Florida scrub-jay *Aphelocoma coerulescens*	LT	LT		G2, S2	1,2,6,7,8,10,13	4
Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*	LS			G5,S3	4,13	1
Crested caracara *Caracara cheriway*	LT	LT		G5,S2	13	1
Kirtland's warbler* *Dendroica kirtlandii*	LE	LE		G1,S1		1
Little blue heron *Egretta caerulea*	LS			G5,S4	4,13	1
Snowy egret *Egretta thula*	LS			G5,S3	4,13	1
Tricolored heron *Egretta tricolor*	LS			G5,S4	4,13	1
Swallow-tailed kite *Elanoides forficatus*				G5,S2		1
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*				G5,S1		1
White ibis *Eudocimus albus*	LS			G5,S4	4,13	1
Peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*				G4,S2	13	1
Southeastern American kestrel *Falco sparverius paulus*	LT			G5T4,S3		1
Magnificent frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*				G5,S1	13	1
Florida sandhill crane *Grus canadensis pratensis*	LT			G5T2T3, S2S3	2,4,7,8,13	1
Worm-eating warbler *Helmintheros vermivorum*				G5,S1		1
Wood stork *Mycteria americana*	LE	LE		G4,S2	4,13	1

Table 1: Imperiled Species Inventory						
	Imperiled Species Status				Management Actions	Monitoring Level
	FWCC	USFWS	FDACS	FNAI		
Red-cockaded woodpecker* *Picoides borealis*	LE	LS		G3,S2		
Louisiana waterthrush *Seiurus motacilla*				G5,S2		1
American redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*				G5,S2		1
MAMMALS						
Florida mouse *Podomys floridanus*	G3,S3		LS			3
Sherman's fox squirrel *Sciurus niger shermani*	G5T3,S3		LS		1	1
West Indian manatee *Trichechus manatus latirostris*	G2,S2	LE	LE		10,13	1
***apparently extirpated**						

Management Actions:

1. Prescribed Fire
2. Exotic Plant Removal
3. Population Translocation/Augmentation/Restocking
4. Hydrological Maintenance/Restoration
5. Nest Boxes/Artificial Cavities
6. Hardwood Removal
7. Mechanical Treatment
8. Predator Control
9. Erosion Control
10. Protection from visitor impacts (establish buffers)/law enforcement
11. Decoys (shorebirds)
12. Vegetation planting
13. Outreach and Education
14. Other

Monitoring Level:

Tier 1: .....Non-Targeted Observation/Documentation: includes documentation of species presence through casual/passive observation during routine park activities (i.e. not conducting species specific searches). Documentation may be in the form of *Wildlife Observation Forms*, or other district specific

methods used to communicate observations.

Tier 2: .....Targeted Presence/Absence: includes monitoring methods/activities that are specifically intended to document presence/absence of a particular species or suite of species.

Tier 3: .....Population Estimate/Index: an approximation of the true population size or population index based on a widely accepted method of sampling.

Tier 4: .....Population Census: A complete count of an entire population with demographic analysis, including mortality, reproduction, emigration, and immigration.

Tier 5: .....Other: may include habitat assessments for a particular species or suite of species or any other specific methods used as indicators to gather information about a particular species.

Exotic Species

Exotic species are plants or animals not native to Florida. Invasive exotic species are able to out-compete, displace or destroy native species and their habitats, often because they have been released from the natural controls of their native range, such as diseases, predatory insects, etc. If left unchecked, invasive exotic plants and animals alter the character, productivity and conservation values of the natural areas they invade.

Thirty-one plant species found in the park are designated Category I and II by FLEPPC. Brazilian pepper and cogongrass are the most prevalent. Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping of the exotic plants species was conducted and this has been a valuable tool in monitoring infestation and progress.

Since the approval of the last management plan, nearly 568 acres have been treated; 480 acres using in-house staff and 20 acres were contract work. When funding is available, AmeriCorps staff applies exotic treatments.

Table 2 contains a list of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Category I and II invasive, exotic plant species found within the park (FLEPPC, 2009). FLEPPC compiles invasive species lists that are revised every two years. Professional botanists and others perform detailed studies to determine invasive exotic plants that should be placed on the lists. Invasive exotic plants are termed Category I when they are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. This definition does not rely on the economic severity or geographic range of the problem, but on the documented ecological damage caused. Category II invasive exotics have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. The table also identifies relative distribution for each species and the management zones in which they are known to occur. An explanation of the codes is provided following the table. For an inventory of all exotic species found within the park, see Addendum 5.

Table 2: Inventory of FLEPPC Category I and II Exotic Plant Species			
Common and *Scientific Name*	**FLEPPC Category**	**Distribution**	**Management Zone**
PLANTS			
Rosary pea *Abrus precatorius*	I	1	OS-7A,10D,12
		2	OS-3A,5B,10A,11B,11C,15B,18
		3	OS-1D,4A,10B,19,20,(22C not on our property but we manage exotics on the legacy trail corridor)
Sisal hemp *Agave sisalana*	II	1	OS-018
Coral ardisia *Ardisia crenata*	I	1	OS-020
Bishopwood *Bischofia javanica*	I	1	OS-021
Green shrimp plant *Blechum pyramidatum*	II	2	OS-019,20
Carrotwood *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*	I	2	OS-04A,020,019,07C,07D,015A
Air-potato *Dioscorea bulbifera*	I	1	OS-7b,7cC20,21
Common water-hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*	I	2	OS-018
Surinam cherry *Eugenia uniflora*	I	1	OS-018
Hydrilla *Hydrilla verticillata*	I	3	OS-04A,04B,018
Cogongrass *Imperata cylindrica*	I	1	OS-1D,4C
		2	OS-2A,4A,4B,9B,14A,14C,15B,
		3	OS-5C,11B
Shrub verbena *Lantana camara*	I	2	OS-01D,011B,021
Peruvian primrose *Ludwigia peruviana*	I	2	OS-01D,012,020

Table 2: Inventory of FLEPPC Category I and II Exotic Plant Species			
Common and *Scientific Name*	**FLEPPC Category**	**Distribution**	**Management Zone**
Melaleuca,punk tree *Melaleuca quinquenervia*	I	2	OS-01A,01B,01C,02A,03A,08,012,016A
Chinaberry *Melia azederach*	II	2	OS-01D
Red Natal grass *Melinis repens*	I	3	OS-05C,05D,022B
Asian sword fern *Nephrolepis brownii*	I	1	OS-02B
Tuberous sword fern *Nephrolepis cordifolia*	I	1	OS-07C
Guinea grass *Panicum maximum*	II	3	OS-01C,01D,05C,019
Torpedograss *Panicum repens*	I	3	OS-018
Senegal date palm *Phoenix reclinata*	II	2	OS-01C,01D,04A,04B,019,021
Castor bean *Ricinus communis*	II	3	OS-01D
Chinese tallow *Sapium sebiferum*	I	2	OS-05C
Brazilian pepper *Schinus terebinthifolius*	I	1	OS-7C,16A
		2	OS-1D,4A,7D,9B,10B,11B,13,14A
Two-leaf nightshade *Solanum diphyllum*	II	1	OS-021
Tropical soda apple *Solanum viarum*	I	2	OS-012
Wedelia *Sphagneticola trilobata*	II	2	OS-04A,07B,019,020
American evergreen *Syngonium podophyllum*	I	1	OS-019,020
Oyster plant *Tradescantia spathacea*	II	1	OS-014A
Caesar weed *Urena lobata*	II	2	OS-1A,5C,5E,9B,14C,16A,16B,19,20,21

Table 2: Inventory of FLEPPC Category I and II Exotic Plant Species			
Common and *Scientific Name*	**FLEPPC Category**	**Distribution**	**Management Zone**
		3	OS-1D,11B,14A,15A,15B,15C
Para grass *Urochloa mutica*	I	3	OS-018

Distribution Categories:

0 .....No current infestation: All known sites have been treated and no plants are currently evident.

1..... Single plant or clump: One individual plant or one small clump of a single species.

2 .....Scattered plants or clumps: Multiple individual plants or small clumps of a single species scattered within the gross area infested.

3 .....Scattered dense patches: Dense patches of a single species scattered within the gross area infested.

4 .....Dominant cover: Multiple plants or clumps of a single species that occupy a majority of the gross area infested.

5 .....Dense monoculture: Generally, a dense stand of a single dominant species that not only occupies more than a majority of the gross area infested, but also covers/excludes other plants.

6 .....Linearly scattered: Plants or clumps of a single species generally scattered along a linear feature, such as a road, trail, property line, ditch, ridge, slough, etc. within the gross area infested.

Exotic animal species include non-native wildlife species, free-ranging domesticated pets or livestock, and feral animals. Because of the negative impacts to natural systems attributed to exotic animals, the Division actively removes exotic animals from state parks, with priority being given to those species causing the ecological damage.

In some cases, native wildlife may also pose management problems or nuisances within state parks. A nuisance animal is an individual native animal whose presence or activities create special management problems. Examples of animal species from which nuisance cases may arise include raccoons *(Procyon lotor)*, venomous snakes and alligator *(Alligator mississipiensis)*. Nuisance animals are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Exotic control measures are required in the park to remove feral hog. Rooting behavior by the animals cause soil and vegetation disturbances in several natural communities, with severe damage to the prairie hammock. For the last 10 years, the contracted

removal of the animals has been in response to detection of damage. Since the year 2000, 220 feral hogs have been removed from the park, 96 in the first 2 fiscal years and 124 in the last fiscal year.

Discussion of detailed management goals, objectives and actions for management of invasive exotic plants and exotic and nuisance animals is in the Resource Management Program section of this component.

Special Natural Features

The special natural feature at this park is the Florida scrub-jay population, and the scrubby flatwoods community that supports it. Southern bald eagles returned to nest in the park in 2009, and 2010 after several years of absence. They also continue to nest adjacent to the park.

Cultural Resources

This section addresses the cultural resources present in the park, which may include archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, cultural landscapes and collections. The Florida Department of State maintains the master inventory of such resources through the Florida Master Site File (FMSF). State law requires that all state agencies locate, inventory and evaluate cultural resources that appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Addendum 7 contains the management procedures for archaeological and historical sites and properties on state-owned or controlled properties, the criteria used for evaluating eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the Secretary of Interior's definitions for the various preservation treatments (restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization and preservation). For the purposes of this plan, significant archaeological site, significant structure and significant landscape means those cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The terms archaeological site, historic structure or historic landscape refer to all resources that will become 50 years old during the term of this plan.

Condition Assessment

Evaluating the condition of historic structures and landscapes is accomplished using a three-part evaluation scale, expressed as good, fair and poor. These terms describe the present condition, rather than comparing what exists to the ideal condition. Good describes a condition of structural stability and physical wholeness, where no obvious deterioration other than normal occurs. Fair describes a condition in which there is a discernible decline in condition between inspections, and the wholeness or physical integrity is and continues to be threatened by factors other than normal wear. A fair assessment is cause for concern. Poor describes an unstable condition where there is palpable, accelerating decline, and physical integrity is compromised quickly. A resource in poor condition suffers obvious declines in physical integrity from year to year. A poor condition suggests immediate need for action to reestablish physical stability.

Level of Significance

Applying the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places involves the use of context as well as an evaluation of the integrity of the site. The significance of a cultural resource derives from its historical, architectural or archaeological context. Evaluation will result in a designation of NRL (National Register or National Landmark Listed or located in an NR district), NR (National Register eligible), NE (not evaluated) or NS (not significant) as indicated in the table at the end of this section.

There are no criteria for use in determining the significance of collections or archival material. Usually, the significance of a collection is based on what or whom it may represent. For instance, a collection of furniture from a single family and a particular era in connection with a significant historic site would be considered highly significant. In the same way, a high quality collection of artifacts from a significant archaeological site would be of important significance. A large herbarium collected from a specific park over many decades could be valuable to resource management efforts. Archival records are most significant as a research source. Any records depicting critical events in the park's history, including construction and resource management efforts, would all be significant.

The following is a summary of the FMSF inventory. In addition, this inventory contains the evaluation of significance.

Pre-Historic and Historic Archaeological Sites

Desired future condition: All significant archaeological sites within the park that represent Florida's cultural periods or significant historic events or persons are preserved in good condition in perpetuity, protected from physical threats and interpreted to the public.

Description: The FMSF lists four archaeological sites in the park. Their descriptions follow.

Site SO00606 (Oscar Scherer II) was added to the FMSF by Marion M. Almy who conducted a Phase I archaeological survey of the site. It dates from the Weeden Island and Safety Harbor period. This site, and two others along South Creek (SO00061 and SO02300, both of Prehistoric unspecified Period), are classified as shell midden, artifact scatter, and/or lithic scatter types.

After an archaeological reconnaissance of the 56-acre prehistoric site at Oscar Scherer State Park, Almy (1988) stated: "Based on the available, limited information about shell scatters, it is concluded that Oscar Scherer II represents a valuable archaeological resource which, when properly studied, could shed light on little known facets of aboriginal settlement and subsistence practices of the west central Gulf coast of

peninsula Florida."

Observations of additional sites with scattered shells by park staff during habitat management operations indicate the need for additional investigation.

Site SO02349, north of the main park drive, contains the remains of what appears to be an old illegal distillery (American Period). A shallow well complete with a hand pitcher pump was discovered. Numerous pieces of glass, probably jug tops, were scattered near the well. The location of these objects is not known.

Condition Assessment: The shell scatter sites are in good condition because they have not been impacted by development and are protected by the park's fence line. Site SO00061 is located on the perimeter of the main park and campground entrance roads. Site SO00606, located at the southwestern corner of the park, has fence lines along its perimeter with a portion of its site extending onto adjacent private property. The fence line also protects Site SO02300 on the western boundary. Site SO02349 has not been evaluated and is identified by the presence of a well pipe protruding from the ground.

Level of Significance: Two of the four recorded archaeological sites in the park have not been evaluated for significance in terms of meeting the criteria for National Register eligibility (SO00606 and SO02349). The remaining two sites (SO00061 and SO02300) are not considered significant due their scattered nature, limited number of artifacts, and absence of associated cultural features.

General management measures: In general, the cultural sites in the park only require periodic assessment. The shell scatter sites, SO00061 and SO00606 cultural sites should be re-assessed after prescribed burns. Sites SO02300 and SO02349 should be re-assessed annually.

Historic Structures

Desired future condition: All significant historic structures and landscapes that represent Florida's cultural periods or significant historic events or persons are preserved in good condition in perpetuity, protected from physical threats and interpreted to the public.

Description: Six historic structures are recorded in the Florida Master Site File. All of these structures were built in the 1960s and will therefore become 50 years of age during the ten-year Unit Management Plan period. All of these structures were constructed specifically for park visitor and staff use and include two restrooms, two picnic shelters/pavilions, and a residence.

Condition Assessment: The historic structures in the park are in fair to good condition. Those buildings, which are in fair condition, are not severely threatened at this time and

may be able to be brought into good condition with spot repair and regular maintenance. The primary threats to the building are environmental; heat and moisture have caused some wood deterioration and paint failure.

Level of Significance: None of the historic structures at the park meets the criteria for eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as a district. All are standard park buildings and are not unique in their style or design. In addition, the original design of SO6893 was altered by an incompatible large side addition that drastically changed the overall symmetry and original appearance of the building. The historic structures are located in various locations throughout the park and were not developed as part of an overall park plan; they therefore do not constitute a potential National Register district as either a physical grouping or a unified architectural type.

General management measures: Although none of the six historic structures are significant in terms of National Register eligibility, all are regularly used for park functions. Therefore, rehabilitation is the preferred treatment for the structures until the Division may elect to demolish or otherwise remove the structures.

Table 3: Cultural Sites Listed in the Florida Master Site File

Site Name and FMSF #	Culture/Period	Description	Significance	Condition	Treatment
Oscar Scherer II SO00606	Weeden Island/Safety Harbor	Archaeological Site	NE	G	P
SO00061	Prehistoric (unspecified)	Archaeological Site	NS	G	P
SO02300	Prehistoric (unspecified)	Archaeological Site	NS	G	P
SO02349	American Period	Archaeological Site	NE	NE	P
South Creek Pavilion (Building 62001) SO06890	1960	Historic Structure	NS	G	RH
Youth Area Restroom (Building 62005) SO06891	1961	Historic Structure	NS	F	RH
South Creek Restroom (Building 62007) SO06892	1968	Historic Structure	NS	G	RH

Table 3: Cultural Sites Listed in the Florida Master Site File					
Site Name and FMSF #	**Culture/Period**	**Description**	**Significance**	**Condition**	**Treatment**
Assistant Manager's Residence (Building 62008) SO06893	1968	Historic Structure	NS	G	RH
Picnic Shelter (Building 62009) SO06894	1968	Historic Structure	NS	F	RH
Maintenance Shop (Building 62010) SO06895	1968	Historic Structure	NS	F	RH

Significance:

NRL .....National Register listed
NR .....National Register eligible
NE.....not evaluated
NS .....not significant

Condition

G.....Good
F .....Fair
P .....Poor

Recommended Treatment:

RS .....Restoration
RH .....Rehabilitation
ST .....Stabilization
P .....Preservation
R.....Removal

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Management Goals, Objectives and Actions

Measurable objectives and actions have been identified for each of the Division's management goals for Oscar Scherer State Park. Please refer to the Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates in the Implementation Component of this plan for a consolidated spreadsheet of the recommended actions, measures of progress, target year for completion and estimated costs to fulfill the management goals and objectives of this park.

While, the Division of Recreation and Parks utilizes the ten year management plan to

serve as the basic statement of policy and future direction for each park, a number of annual work plans provide more specific guidance for Division staff to accomplish many of the resource management goals and objectives of the park. Where such detailed planning is appropriate to the character and scale of the park's natural resources, annual work plans are developed for prescribed fire management, exotic plant management and imperiled species management. Annual or longer- term work plans are developed for natural community restoration and hydrological restoration. The work plans provide the Division with crucial flexibility in its efforts to generate and implement adaptive resource management practices in the state park system.

The work plans are reviewed and updated annually. Through this process, the Division's resource management strategies are systematically evaluated to determine their effectiveness. The process and the information collected is used to refine techniques, methodologies and strategies, and ensures that each park's prescribed management actions are monitored and reported as required by Chapters 253.034 and 259.037, Florida Statutes.

The goals, objectives and actions identified in this management plan will serve as the basis for developing annual work plans for the park. Since the plan is based on conditions that exist at the time the plan is developed, the annual work plans will provide the flexibility needed to adapt to future conditions as they change during the ten year management planning cycle. As the park's annual work plans are implemented through the ten year cycle, it may become necessary to adjust the management plan's priority schedules and cost estimates to reflect these changing conditions.

Natural Resource Management

Hydrological Management

Goal: Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible and maintain the restored condition.

The natural hydrology of most state parks was impaired prior to acquisition to one degree or another. Florida's native habitats are precisely adapted to natural drainage patterns and seasonal water level fluctuations, and variations in these factors frequently determine the types of natural communities that occur on a particular site. Even minor changes to natural hydrology can result in the loss of plant and animal species from a landscape. Restoring state park lands to original natural conditions often depends on returning natural hydrological processes and conditions to the park. This is done primarily by filling or plugging ditches, removing obstructions to surface water "sheet flow," installing culverts or low-water crossings on roads, and installing water control structures to manage water levels.

Objective: Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.

In the 1990s, South Creek became a focal point for flood control strategies for Sarasota

County after unusual rains twice caused extensive flooding. A planning phase for partial restoration of the creek involved park management, Sarasota County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, which acted as mediator. The restoration plan for the creek favored by park management would have included raising water levels somewhat by means of two fixed weirs, and creation of wetland marshes at two sites along the creek where sloughs historically occurred. A preliminary "Existing Conditions Assessment Report" (ECAR 1999) was completed at a cost of $200,000. The restoration was not implemented because of projected impacts to private lands upstream of the park boundary. The park will continue to work with Sarasota County towards restoration of South Creek while working to protect this valuable resource from being reduced to little more than a conduit for floodwaters. Opportunities and an assessment to restore some of the natural storage capacity of the creek, while enhancing natural features along its length, will be actively pursued.

Objective: Restore natural hydrological conditions and functions to approximately 15 acres of Blackwater Stream natural community.

As noted above, there are substantial obstacles to achieving this objective. The assessment of existing conditions in the South Creek basin in the 1990s allowed hydrologists to model the effects of stream restoration. Models predicted that restoration of the original marsh habitat along South Creek within the park would require raising the water level in the creek to the extent that private lands upstream of the park would be affected. Nonetheless, park management, while opposed to the concept of an engineered channel, will continue to look for workable alternatives for hydrological restoration of the creek. The park will also continue to remove exotic vegetation parallel to the creek while protecting native vegetation.

Drainage from ditches along either side of the railroad bed should be evaluated for quantity and quality. If they are contributing to pollution in South Creek, remedial measures should also be evaluated.

Objective: Monitor and analyze water resources in the park.

Park management proposes to follow-up on monitoring that was first conducted as a mitigation project, by periodically collecting water quality data for South Creek at the site where it enters the park on the northern boundary. In conjunction with collecting water quality data for South Creek, similar data will be collected from Lake Osprey and Big Lake (a borrow pit lake next to SR681), and from drainages carrying runoff from the adjacent Sorrento, Rivendell and Willowbend subdivisions. The potential for re-activating groundwater wells installed in the 1990s will also be evaluated. Some of these piezometers were beginning to accumulate silt by 2001, and at least one was impacted by fire. Data have not been collected from the wells since 2002.

Monitoring for erosion along the banks of the creek in the campground will also continue. Remedial steps will be taken if erosion is observed.

Natural Communities Management

Goal: Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.

As discussed above, the Division practices natural systems management. In most cases, this entails returning fire to its natural role in fire-dependent natural communities. Other methods to implement this goal include large scale restoration projects as well as smaller scale natural communities' improvements. Following are the natural community management objectives and actions recommended for the state park.

Prescribed Fire Management: Prescribed fire is used to mimic natural lightning-set fires, which are one of the primary natural forces that shaped Florida's ecosystem. Prescribed burning increases the abundance and health of many wildlife species. A large number of Florida's imperiled species of plants and animals are dependent on periodic fire for their continued existence. Fire-dependent natural communities gradually accumulate flammable vegetation; therefore, prescribed fire reduces wildfire hazards by reducing these wild land fuels.

All prescribed burns in the Florida state park system are conducted with authorization from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (DOF). Wildfire suppression activities in the park are coordinated with the DOF.

Objective: Within 10 years, have 1,235 acres of the park maintained within optimum fire return interval.

The foremost management need at Oscar Scherer State Park is more frequent prescribed burning of mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods communities. Much of the latter habitat became unsuitable for Florida scrub-jays during a time when fire suppression was the policy in state parks. In the 1980s, scrubby flatwoods in the park became so overgrown (or in one case had been replaced by a plantation of non-native pines) that no scrub-jays nested within the park boundaries. This situation changed with the introduction of mechanical treatment (to reduce the hazards of heavy fuel loading) and the re-introduction of fire. Unfortunately, most of the development in the park, including administrative offices, residences, campgrounds and picnic areas, had occurred in scrubby flatwoods before the ecology of Florida scrub-jays was understood.

Prescribed burning in scrubby flatwoods must be carefully planned to avoid complete displacement of Florida scrub-jays from their family territories. Burning tends to be more patchily distributed in this community type, and burn prescriptions are written so no territory is completely burned the same year. Due to management, not all of this community type can be simultaneously suitable for Florida scrub-jays. In addition, due to its rapid growth and too-infrequent burning, some of the scrubby flatwoods remains overgrown.

Prescribed burning is planned in such a way that only a portion of any given territory is burned at a time, after about five-six years of growth. The goal is to manage the natural

community, and at the same time maintain a stable population of birds within the park. Consequently, another portion is in a one-two years post-burn stage, and ideally a third portion about three-four years post-burn. This management technique has resulted in a persistent population of jays, while maintaining suitable habitat (Hingtgen and Thaxton 1999). In most zones, burning has been delayed for one reason or another and mechanical treatment with a tree-cutter, roller-chopper or Fecon cutting-head must precede burning to reduce fuel hazards and shrub density. Roller chopping is also applied in some zones where saw palmetto has grown dense and shaded out the vegetative groundlayer.

Selective cutting of large scrub oak will be done in overgrown scrubby flatwoods where fire has not sufficiently reduced their density. This includes scrubby flatwoods habitat in proximity to the main park drive and park administrative facilities. It has not been occupied by Florida scrub-jays for at least a decade, but once restored may supplement several territories. At Oscar Scherer State Park, an annual Florida scrub-jay habitat management plan is formulated in conjunction with the annual burn plan.

The park lands have been divided into 52 Management zones based on roads, trails and natural firebreaks. The park will manage fire dependent communities for ecosystem function, structure and processes by burning approximately 400 acres annually.

Table 4 contains a list of all fire-dependent natural communities found within the park, their associated acreage and optimal fire return interval, and the annual average target for acres to be burned.

Table 4: Prescribed Fire Management

Natural Community	**Acres**	**Optimal Fire Return Interval (Years)**
Mesic Flatwoods	759	1-3
Scrubby Flatwoods	421	2-6
Depression Marsh	69	1-3
Annual Target Acreage	346-1039	

The park is partitioned into burn zones, and burn prescriptions are implemented on the prescribed burn cycle for each zone (see Management Zones Map). The park's burn plan is updated annually because fire management is a dynamic process. To provide adaptive responses to changing conditions, fire management requires careful planning based on annual and very specific burn objectives. Each annual burn plan is developed to support and implement the broader objectives and actions outlined in this ten year management plan.

In order to track fire management activities, the Division maintains a statewide burn database. The database allows staff to track various aspects of each park's fire

management program including individual burn zone histories and fire return intervals, staff training and experience, and backlog. The database is also used for annual burn planning which allows the Division to document fire management goals and objectives on an annual basis. Each quarter the database is updated and reports are produced that track progress towards meeting annual burn objectives.

Natural Community Restoration: In some cases, the reintroduction and maintenance of natural processes is not enough to reach the natural community desired future conditions in the park, and active restoration programs are required. Restoration of altered natural communities to healthy, fully functioning natural landscapes often requires substantial efforts that include mechanical treatment of vegetation or soils and reintroduction or augmentation of native plants and animals. For the purposes of this management plan, restoration is defined as the process of assisting the recovery and natural functioning of degraded natural communities to desired future condition, including the re-establishment of biodiversity, ecological processes, vegetation structure and physical characters.

A natural community restoration, projects that require annual restoration plans include large mitigation projects, large scale hardwood removal and timbering activities, roller-chopping and other large-scale vegetative modifications. The key concept is that restoration projects will go beyond management activities routinely done as standard operating procedures such as routine mowing, the reintroduction of fire as a natural process, spot treatments of exotic plants, small scale vegetation management and so forth.

Following are the natural community/habitat restoration and maintenance actions recommended to create the desired future conditions in the mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods communities at Oscar Scherer State Park.

> ***Objective: Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 80 acres of scrubby flatwoods and 60 acres of mesic flatwoods communities.***

The effect of fire on the competition between wiregrass and the exotic bahiagrass, which remains from previous agricultural land use, deserves further attention. In addition, the efficacy of several herbicide protocols is being investigated via test plots at the park. Once a protocol has been identified, treatment of the exotic pasture grass can begin, and an annual restoration work plan will be drafted.

Management zones OS-011, OS-012, OS-013 and OS-014 were most impacted historically by agricultural practices that promoted growth of bahiagrass. Planting of wiregrass and herbicide tests have been done in those zones. Monitoring for the effects of prescribed burning in conjunction with other restoration activities will be very important. Wiregrass planting sites suggest that the native grass competes successfully against the exotic. This is most evident after fire.

The distribution and size of open sandy areas in the scrubby flatwoods in the park is suboptimal for Florida scrub-jays. Mechanical treatment will be tested as a means to reverse this trend, which is probably due to fewer fires and storage of reserves in the roots of scrub oaks. Since the use of a tree-cutter has not been effective, roller-chopping will be used in scrubby flatwoods. This method has proven successful at other sites, such as the Ocala National Forest.

In mesic flatwoods, where fire has been too infrequent, the height and density of saw palmettos will need to be mechanically reduced, in conjunction with burning, to promote grasses, herbs and shrubs that have suffered because of saw palmetto expansion. This mechanical reduction is typically done with a roller-chopper.

Natural Communities Improvement: Improvements are similar to restoration but on a smaller, less intense scale. This typically includes small scale vegetative management activities or minor habitat manipulation. The following are the natural community and habitat improvement actions recommended at the park.

Objective: Continue to work with the county and landowners to maintain a landscape connection between the park and public lands east of the park.

A wildlife corridor connection between the park and public lands approximately 1.5 miles to the east will support the current diversity and full complement of natural organisms in the park. For example, bobcat, white-tailed deer and river otter *(Lutra canadensis)* presently travel through the park, which is too small to support an independent population of these larger mammals. Oscar Scherer State Park faces the imminent threat of isolation in the landscape of Sarasota County. Residential and commercial development is proceeding rapidly along its borders. Extensive development around the park will complicate one of the most effective habitat management tools—prescribed burning. Presently, the park has a connection for wildlife through agricultural lands to public lands farther east. Wildlife, including large mammals, can still move between these public holdings, even though they often resort to crossing hazards at a bisecting interstate highway. Additional transportation corridors and widening of existing highways are planned near the park, and some of the agricultural lands to the east will be developed.

After years working with local governments and adjacent landowners to gain acknowledgment of the value of wildlife corridor connections for the park in Sarasota County's Comprehensive Plan, the park's efforts have had some success. In 2010, county commissioners advanced an Energy Economic Zone amendment that includes a Master Open Space Plan to identify wildlife corridors and crossing strategy that links local landscape features, including those referenced in the park's management plan. The park will continue to work with the county and adjacent landowners to achieve this critical goal.

Imperiled Species Management

Goal: Maintain, improve or restore imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.

The Division strives to maintain healthy populations of imperiled plant and animal species primarily by implementing effective management of natural systems. Single species management is appropriate in state parks when the maintenance, recovery or restoration of a species or population is complicated due to constraints associated with long-term restoration efforts, unnaturally high mortality or insufficient habitat. Single species management should be compatible with the maintenance and restoration of natural processes, and should not imperil other native species or seriously compromise park values.

In the preparation of this management plan, Division staff consulted with staff of the FFWCC's Bureau of Imperiled Species Management or its Regional Biologist and other appropriate federal, state and local agencies for assistance in developing imperiled animal species management objectives and actions. Likewise, for imperiled plant species, Division staff consulted with FDACS. Park staff will review data collected by the FFWCC, USFWS, FDACS and FNAI as part of their ongoing research and monitoring programs periodically to inform management of decisions that may have an impact on imperiled species at the park.

Ongoing inventory and monitoring of imperiled species in the state park system is necessary to meet the Division's mission. Long-term monitoring is also essential to ensure the effectiveness of resource management programs. Monitoring efforts must be prioritized so that the data collected provides information that can be used to improve or confirm the effectiveness of management actions on conservation priorities. Monitoring intensity must at least be at a level that provides the minimum data needed to make informed decisions to meet conservation goals. Not all imperiled species require intensive monitoring efforts on a regular interval. Priority must be given to those species that can provide valuable data to guide adaptive management practices. Those species selected for specific management action and those that will provide management guidance through regular monitoring are addressed in the objectives below.

Objective: Update baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals.

Regional and local land use changes as well as resource management efforts within the park have altered habitat conditions for a number of species. The park will continue to update the baseline of the imperiled species occurrence inventory lists to reflect the current census of imperiled plant and animal species.

Objective: Monitor and document three selected imperiled animal species in the park.

A significant portion of resource management at Oscar Scherer State Park focuses on the management of Florida scrub-jay habitat. Protection of this species' habitat also protects additional species, including the eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise, Florida gopher frog and Florida mouse. Habitat management has increased the number of territories within the 1980s boundary of the park from zero in 1989 to 19 in 1999. Acquisition of new land in 1991, added more territories within park boundaries. By 1999, there were 34 territories identified (Hingtgen and Thaxton 1999). However, by 2006, the number of territories had declined to 20, and by 2008, 15 territories remained, mostly due to overgrown habitat and subsequent management activities. The smallest populations considered to be viable over the long-term have at least 30 territories (Fitzpatrick et al. 1991). Populations of 15 to 30 territories require other populations in proximity (i.e. 3-5 mi) to reduce chances of extirpation.

The park monitors the Florida scrub-jay population throughout the year to obtain the information necessary to plan and evaluate habitat management. A census of the entire population is conducted monthly. New birds in the population are typically banded with the help of researchers or volunteers permitted to conduct such activities. The composition of each family group is verified as the breeding season begins in the spring, and juveniles are surveyed during the summer months before they gain adult plumage.

Territory configuration is roughly estimated from a record of the locations of individual birds based on census data, and an annual plan for management of scrubby flatwoods habitat is produced. The plan includes prescribed burning and mechanical treatment, which are conducted outside of the nesting season, approximately February 15 to June 15.

Monitoring has shown that birds disperse into the park from suburban areas and the park seems to be functioning as a sink for reasons that are not completely understood. As this source of birds dwindles in the future, the response of the population at the park will need to be followed closely.

One particular aspect of population response that needs to be monitored is the annual production of independent young. Based on the numbers of juvenile birds in the census, reproductive success of Florida scrub-jays at Oscar Scherer State Park is low, and typically insufficient to replace breeding birds that are lost. In recent years, park managers have attributed this to higher-than-average nest depredation, possibly due to terrestrial predators taking advantage of the dense cover of oak shrubs in managed habitat. However, research into this aspect of population biology could be very useful in guiding the management of the population. Meanwhile, habitat management techniques at the park are working towards producing more open habitat.

A second imperiled species that is subject to detailed survey and monitoring is the

gopher tortoise. The protocol consists of mapping tortoise burrows via Global Positioning System (GPS)/GIS technology after prescribed burns. The park conducts a burn zone census to characterize burrows as active, inactive or abandoned. Burrows are routinely mapped within several weeks after burns. A few zones remain to be surveyed before a complete map of the burrows within the park can be produced. The mapping is conducted by District Biological staff.

A study that provided a robust estimate of the Florida mouse population in scrubby flatwoods at the park was completed in the 1990s. Much habitat management has occurred since them, and the study should be repeated to evaluate effects on the population. Repeat of the study will depend on whether the necessary permits can be obtained. The protocol is documented in the report on the 1990s study, and work will again be performed by District Biological staff and volunteers.

Objective: Monitor and document all imperiled plant species in the park.

The welfare of imperiled species is an important concern, and in many cases, these species will benefit most from proper management of their natural communities.

Exotic Species Management

Goal: Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance control.

The Division actively removes invasive exotic species from state parks, with priority being given to those causing the ecological damage. Removal techniques may include mechanical treatment, herbicides or biocontrol agents.

Objective: Annually treat 20 acres of exotic plant species in the park.

In recent years, funding has been available to contract the removal of exotic plants. Brazilian pepper, once eliminated from the park, has reappeared. Melaleuca trees have been removed; however, melaleuca reappears in depression marshes. These species are eliminated as they reappear.

Cogongrass has invaded at numerous locations in the park. One site of invasion appears to be the result of soil disturbance by machinery brought into the park with propagules of cogongrass attached. This practice should be carefully avoided in the future. Treatment of cogongrass in the park has been via hand pulling and by herbicides.

Rosary pea *(Abrus precatorius)* and St. Augustine grass *(Stenotaphrum secundatum)* continue to increase in the park. St. Augustine grass encroaches from roadways and other disturbed sites. Both species pose a threat to native flora and fauna.

Bahia grass is evident in improved pasture areas formerly used for cattle grazing. Identification of the most effective herbicides to remove bahia grass is now underway.

A map of these and other exotic species has been prepared to help park management deal with this problem. In addition, an annual plan for exotic plant management will be implemented, and a report of the associated annual success will be prepared. When the park enters a maintenance phase of exotic control, vigilance will be the key to success. One strategy for discovering and eradicating new exotic invasions is to assign individual staff to particular burn zones, where they would have the responsibility, as well as the credit, for keeping out exotics.

Objective: Implement control measures on two exotic animal species in the park.

In addition to plants, two exotic animal species requires special control efforts in the park. The feral hog does extensive damage to natural communities through its propensity to root (i.e., turn the soil and vegetative understory upside down) in search of food. The resulting "plowed" aspect has been especially extensive in the mesic/prairie hammock community. Feral hogs have been controlled in the past via contracted removals. This practice will need to continue to keep populations of this exotic animal as low as possible.

A second exotic animal species that requires special control efforts is the feral house cat. Feral cats have the potential to depredate nests of the Florida scrub-jay, as well as prey on small mammals like the Florida mouse. Intensive trapping efforts are required when feral house cats are present.

Special Management Considerations

Timber Management Analysis

Chapters 253 and 259, Florida Statutes, require an assessment of the feasibility of managing timber in land management plans for parcels greater than 1,000 acres if the lead agency determines that timber management is not in conflict with the primary management objectives of the land. The feasibility of harvesting timber at this park during the period covered by this plan was considered in context of the Division's statutory responsibilities and an analysis of the park's resource needs and values. The long-term management goal for forest communities in the state park system is to maintain or re-establish old-growth characteristics to the degree practicable, with the exception of those communities specifically managed as early successional.

During the development of this plan, an analysis was made regarding the feasibility of timber management activities in the park. It was determined that the primary management objectives of the unit could be met without conducting timber management activities for this management plan cycle. Timber management will be re-evaluated during the next revision of the management plan.

Timber management in mesic flatwoods and scrubby flatwoods was completed under the previous management plan cycle. Any additional thinning during the period

covered under this revised plan will be relatively unsubstantial, and will be performed by park staff.

In 1991, the park harvested 26 acres of North Florida slash pines (*Pinus elliottii* var. *elliottii*) planted in the 1950s to restore scrubby flatwoods. The project was successful and scrub-jays continue to reside on the site of restored habitat.

Additional Considerations

The Division has entered into land management agreements with Sarasota County and adjacent landowners. As a result, some management zones have changed in both size and configuration. Fifteen acres along the eastern side of zone OS-013, and OS-010 acres along the eastern side of zone OS-012, as well as 1 acre along the northern side of zone OS-02A, and OS-03 acres along the northern side of zone OS-01 A, are owned by the adjacent Rivendell subdivision, but managed by the park. These are mostly extensions of the mesic flatwoods and depression marshes in the park, and require frequent prescribed burning at the wildland-urban interface. Management zones OS-022A, OS22B, OS022C, which are 13, 4 and 6 acres, respectively, are owned by Sarasota County and managed by the park. The zones consist of a former railroad right-of-way converted to a public recreational trail, and contain mostly mesic and scrubby flatwoods requiring regular prescribed burning. In addition to these changes, three management zones have increased due to a new acquisition to the park since the last plan revision. These are zones OS-01A (along the western side this time), OS-01C and OS-01E, which expanded to 25, 27 and 32 acres, respectively, after the park acquired additional acreage along its perimeter from the adjacent landowner. The additional acreage had previously been set aside as a buffer. The natural community in these zones is mostly mesic flatwoods, and will require regular prescribed burning.

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural resources are individually unique, and collectively, very challenging for the public land manager whose goal is to preserve and protect them in perpetuity. The Division of Recreation and Parks is implementing the following goals, objectives and actions, as funding becomes available, to preserve the cultural resources found in Oscar Scherer State Park.

Goal: Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.

The management of cultural resources is often complicated because these resources are irreplaceable and extremely vulnerable to disturbances. The advice of historical and archaeological experts is required in this effort. All activities related to land clearing, ground disturbing activities, major repairs or additions to historic structures listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and collections care must be submitted top the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) for review and comment prior to undertaking the proposed project.

Recommendations may include, but are not limited to concurrence with the project as submitted, pre-testing of the project site by a certified archaeological monitor, cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effect. In addition, any demolition or substantial alteration to any historic structure or resource must be submitted to DHR for consultation and the Division of Recreation and Parks must demonstrate that there is no feasible alternative to removal and must provide a strategy for documentation or salvage of the resource. Florida law further requires that the Division of Recreation and Parks consider the reuse of historic buildings in the park in lieu of new construction and must undertake a cost comparison of new development versus rehabilitation of a building before electing to construct a new or replacement building. This comparison must be accomplished with the assistance of DHR.

Objective: Assess and evaluate ten of ten recorded cultural resources in the park.

The park will continue to assess and evaluate the recorded cultural resources when conducting management activities within the vicinity of those resources.

Objective: Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological sites.

The park has recorded known sites in the FMSF. Should new cultural resources be discovered, or recognized, they will be documented. A predictive model will be used for the probability of locating new cultural resources and a Level I archaeological survey will be conducted if recommended.

Objective: Bring three and maintain seven recorded cultural resources into good condition.

The park's four archaeological sites will be periodically assessed and stabilized as needed. The shell scatter sites, SO00061 and SO00606, will be assessed after prescribed burns, and SO02300 and SO02349 will have annual assessments. Regular maintenance plans will be developed for the park's historic structures. The implementation of the plans, combined with necessary repair, will assist in bringing all the structures to good condition and ensure their safe, continued use by the public and park staff.

Resource Management Schedule

There is a priority schedule for conducting all management activities in the park. The basis for these priorites is the purposes for which lands were acquired in addtion to the enhancement of resource values. The Implementation Component of this management plan contains the priority schedule.

Land Management Review

Section 259.036, Florida Statutes, established land management review teams to determine whether conservation, preservation and recreation lands titled in the name of the Board of Trustees are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and in accordance with their approved land management plans. The managing agency

considered the findings and recommendations of the land management review team in preparing this management plan.

Oscar Scherer State Park was subject to a land management review on January 18, 2008. The review team made the following determinations:

1. The land is being managed for the purpose for which it was acquired.
2. The actual management practices, including public access, complied with the management plan for this site.

LAND USE COMPONENT

INTRODUCTION

Land use planning and park development decisions for the state park system are based on the dual responsibilities of the Division of Recreation and Parks (Division). These responsibilities are to preserve representative examples of original natural Florida and its cultural resources, and to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for Florida's citizens and visitors.

The general planning and design process begins with an analysis of the natural and cultural resources of the unit, and then proceeds through the creation of a conceptual land use plan to guide the location and extent of future park development. Input to the plan is provided by experts in environmental sciences, cultural resources, park operation and management, and through public workshops, and user groups. With this approach, the Division objective is to provide quality development for resource-based recreation with a high level of sensitivity to the natural and cultural resources at each park throughout the state.

This component of the unit plan includes a brief inventory of the external conditions and the recreational potential of the unit. Existing uses, facilities, special conditions on use, and specific areas within the park that will be given special protection, are identified. The land use component then summarizes the current conceptual land use plan for the park, identifying the existing or proposed activities suited to the resource base of the park. Any new facilities needed to support the proposed activities are described and located in general terms.

EXTERNAL CONDITIONS

An assessment of the conditions that exist beyond the boundaries of the unit can identify any special development problems or opportunities that exist because of the unit's unique setting or environment. This also provides an opportunity to deal systematically with various planning issues such as location, regional demographics, adjacent land uses and park interaction with other facilities.

Oscar Scherer State Park is located within Sarasota County, about 12 miles south of the city of Sarasota in the southwest part of the state. The region is experiencing rapid growth with the largest populated areas concentrated along the coastline and in the cities of Sarasota and Bradenton. Nearly 1,554,542 people reside within 50 miles of the park, which includes all or portions of Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota counties (Census, 2000). The estimated populations of Sarasota County and the adjacent Manatee, Desoto, and Charlotte Counties have grown 19 percent since 2000, and are projected to grow an additional 20 percent by 2020 (BEBR, University of Florida, 2008).

A number of public conservation lands and recreation areas are located within 15 miles of Oscar Scherer State Park. In addition to Casey Key, Siesta Key, Lido Key and Longboat Key, internationally known for their beaches and boating opportunities, several conservation lands also exist near Oscar Scherer State Park. These consist of county and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) lands, including the Upper Myakka River Watershed and Flatford Swamp, Walton Ranch, T. Mabry Carlton, Jr. Memorial Reserve, Rocky Ford Preserve, Pinelands Reserve, Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park, Sarasota Ranch Lands, Jelks Preserve and Heritage Ranch Conservation Easement. Additional conservation areas offering recreation include the Myakka State Forest, managed by Division of Forestry (DOF) and Myakka River State Park, managed by the Division. Recreational opportunities provided in the referenced areas include hiking, cycling, horseback riding, boating, camping, picnicking, birdwatching, fishing and swimming.

Additional recreational opportunities include local and regional trail systems that utilize facilities at Oscar Scherer State Park while expanding the park's recreational opportunities. The Legacy Trail is a 10.4-miles multiuse recreational trail developed by Sarasota County. The trail bisects Oscar Scherer State Park on the former CSX Transportation railroad corridor, while connecting the Sarasota and Venice communities. An accessible ramp from the county trail to park property was funded by the county and built in 2008 in cooperation with the state. The ramp connects the county trail corridor to the park's biking trails. The county is currently planning to construct facilities for the Osprey Junction Trailhead just north of the park. The site will provide the public with access to the Legacy Trail and will include stabilized parking and opportunities for nature walks and picnicking.

Paddlers navigating the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail can also access recreational facilities at the park. The paddling trail begins at Big Lagoon State Park near Pensacola, extends around the Florida peninsula and Keys, ending at Fort Clinch State Park at the Georgia border. The trail is 1,500 miles long and divided into 26 segments. Segment 10 of the paddling trail accesses Oscar Scherer State Park's camping facilities via the county's South Creek Paddling Trail off Blackburn Bay and Little Sarasota Bay. The Office of Greenways and Trails coordinated the development of the paddling trail in cooperation with state agencies and local governments.

Existing Use of Adjacent Lands

The majority of lands adjacent to the park are either vacant or developed as residential. The remaining vacant lands include privately owned undeveloped parcels of pasture and county land. No significant commercial or service uses are located adjacent to the park. Transportation routes aligned along park boundaries include the U.S. Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) and the State Road 681 corridors.

County land located on the park's eastern boundary is zoned as Major Government Use with a future land use designation of Public Conservation/Preservation (Sarasota County, 2000). The 303-acre area is identified as the Oscar Scherer Buffer and is maintained by the county.

Planned Use of Adjacent Lands

The county and the Department of Transportation have approved significant improvements for the Interstate Highway 75 corridor east of the park and U.S. Highway 41 west of the park. A widening of Interstate-75 is planned in unison with a four-lane highway extension of Honore Avenue. Honore Avenue will parallel the interstate, crossing over South Creek and bisecting the Oscar Scherer Buffer, and tie into State Road 681. A Corridor Master Plan for Highway 41 is planned from North Creek to South Creek. If constructed, a wildlife passage adjacent to South Creek may also be included in the 3.5-mile road-widening project. Other improvements proposed for the Highway 41 project include landscaped medians and tree-lined shoulders, as well as sidewalks that will serve both pedestrians and cyclists.

The county's proposed Future Land Use designations for adjacent undeveloped parcels north and south of the park consist of moderate and medium density residential designations (Sarasota County, 2000). The county is also proposing an Energy Economic Zone (EEZ) overlay district on adjacent lands east, southeast and south of the park (Sarasota County, 2010).

As vacant land is converted to more intensive uses, additional resource and visitor management challenges could occur including exacerbated exotic species control, limited opportunities for using prescribed fire and alterations in the existing patterns of hydrology and water quality of South Creek. In addition, expansion of the transportation corridor to the east of park can disrupt wildlife corridors between conservation lands located one and a half miles east of Interstate Highway 75 and Oscar Scherer State Park. Increased urban activity adjacent to the park has the potential to affect the visitor experience through increased noise, light pollution and a more visible built environment. The Division will monitor land use changes adjacent to the Oscar Scherer State Park and provide feedback on proposed development plans to local planning officials to ensure the protection of park resources.

PROPERTY ANALYSIS

Effective planning requires a thorough understanding of the unit's natural and cultural resources. This section describes the resource characteristics and existing uses of the property. The unit's recreation resource elements are examined to identify the opportunities and constraints they present for recreational development. Past and present uses are assessed for their effects on the property, compatibility with the site, and relation to the unit's classification.

Recreation Resource Elements

This section assesses the unit's recreation resource elements those physical qualities that, either singly or in certain combinations, supports the various resource-based recreation activities. Breaking down the property into such elements provides a means for measuring the property's capability to support individual recreation activities. This process also analyzes the existing spatial factors that either favor or limit the provision of each activity.

Land Area

Oscar Scherer State Park has topography that is relatively flat with upland natural communities of mesic flatwoods, prairie hammock and scrubby flatwoods. The wetland communities include depression marsh, blackwater stream, marine tidal swamp and marine tidal marsh.

Water Area

The main water feature in Oscar Scherer State Park is South Creek. This blackwater stream travels through the center of the property from north to south and southeast for approximately three miles before terminating in Blackburn Bay. The oaks within the stream's riparian hammock give this feature an "old Florida" charm. The creek is a recreational resource for wildlife viewing, fishing and canoe/kayaking. As noted in the Resource Management Component, the park will continue to work with Sarasota County and the SWFWMD towards restoring or enhancing the stream's natural character and natural storage capacity.

Lake Osprey, a three-acre swimming and fishing lake, is located in the center of the park. This lake is a modified borrow pit, originally created by a marl mining operation in the 1950s.

Big Lake, a 12-acre borrow pit pond adjacent to the park's southeast boundary and State Road 681, is accessed by hiking. The lake provides visitors with a natural setting for wildlife viewing.

Natural Scenery

The park's mesic flatwoods and the scrubby flatwoods have become a cherished landscape in an area that is experiencing rapid population growth. The natural scenery offers visitors a reprieve from the emergent urbanization along the Southwest Florida coast.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

The Tampa mock vervain *(Glandularia tampensis)*, eastern indigo snake *(Drymarchon corais couperi)*, Florida scrub-jay *(Aphelocoma coerulescens)*, Sherman's fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermani*), gopher tortoise, (*Gopherus polyphemus)* and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus)* are examples of imperiled plant and animal species

found within the park's natural habitats. Visitors have a rare opportunity to learn about these species through the park's interpretive programs. All listed species will be carefully monitored and protected under established Division and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) management policies.

Natural Features

The special natural feature at this park is the Florida scrub-jay population, and the scrubby flatwoods community that supports it. Visitors have the opportunity to observe the park's resident population in their natural habitat while hiking through the park's scrubby flatwoods.

Archaeological and Historical Features

As noted in the Cultural Resources section of the Resource Management Component, the park contains ten sites included in the Florida Master Site File (FMSF). Additional study is required to complete the historic record and comprehension of these sites. The nature or the remaining archeological fragments combined with the remote locations of these sites would not provide park visitor's with an enhanced trail destination for cultural interpretation.

Assessment of Use

All legal boundaries, significant natural features, structures, facilities, roads and trails existing in the unit are delineated on the base map (see Base Map). Specific uses made of the unit are briefly described in the following sections.

Past Uses

Before acquisition, Oscar Scherer State Park was a privately owned agricultural land used for timber and turpentine harvesting, silviculture and cattle grazing. During the construction of U.S. Highway 41, marl excavation also occurred. During the 1960s, the camping area and the Lake Osprey picnic area were developed through a public/private partnership by Restaurant Associates Industries, Incorporated. The Division terminated the agreement with this company in 1972. Since that time, the Division has developed additional recreational and support facilities throughout the park.

Future Land Use and Zoning

The Division works with local governments to establish designations that provide both consistency between comprehensive plans and zoning codes and permit typical state park uses and facilities necessary for the provision of resource-based recreation opportunities.

All designated land uses within the park are located within the jurisdiction of Sarasota County. The park is zoned by the county as a Government Use District (GU) with a Future Land Use designation of Public Conservation/Preservation.

INSET

RED TRAIL
BLUE TRAIL
TRAIL HEAD
BATHHOUSE
PICNIC SHELTER
SWIMMING AREA
WELL
RESTROOM
PLAYGROUND
RESIDENCES & SHEDS
THE LEGACY TRAIL SARASOTA COUNTY
YELLOW TRAIL
Lake Osprey
RESIDENCES & SHEDS
BLACK TRAIL
PICNIC SHELTER
NATURE CENTER
CAMP SITES
SHOPS
RESTROOM
PIER
PLAYGROUND
BATHHOUSES
LESTER FINLEY TRAIL
US 41
OFFICES
DOCK
CAMPFIRE CIRCLE
GREEN TRAIL
DUMP STATION
South Creek
ENTRANCE STATION
CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH
PIER
BATHHOUSES
PICNIC SHELTER
PLAYGROUND
GREEN TRAIL
681

Legend

- Park Boundary

Roads

- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Road
- Structures
- Park Road Paved
- Park Road Unpaved

Trails

- Hiking
- Biking
- Shared-Use

- Parking Lot
- Special Use Area
- Water Bodies

ADMINISTRATION, RESIDENCE AND SHOP AREA
THE LEGACY TRAIL
SARASOTA COUNTY
YELLOW TRAIL
South Creek
I-75
681
Big Lake
PRIMITIVE GROUP CAMP
LAKE OSPREY DAY USE AREA
US 41
SR 681
INSET
SOUTH CREEK DAY USE AREA
CAMPGROUND
ENTRANCE AREA

OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

N

0 1,250 2,500 5,000 Feet

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Date of aerial: 2008

BASE MAP

Under the GU zoning designation, development of facilities should be appropriate to the nature of the proposed use and address possible impacts on surrounding areas. (Sarasota County, 2000)

Current Recreational Use and Visitor Programs

Oscar Scherer State Park recorded 108,367 visitors in FY 2009-2010. By DRP estimates, the FY 2009/2010 the park contributed $4.7 million in direct economic impact and the equivalent of 95 jobs to the local economy (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2010).

Oscar Scherer State Park offers several miles of recreational trail opportunities. The park's unpaved shared-use trails provide natural scenery for both hikers and off-road cycling enthusiasts. Other recreational uses within the park include picnicking, swimming, fishing, wildlife observation and camping. Special events at the park include concerts and community socials.

A small nature center located at the Lake Osprey Day Use Area is currently used by visitors, volunteers and staff for meetings, training, education and resource interpretation, and as a recreation hall. The center's feasibility to generate revenue from rental fees for special events is being studied by the district and park.

Other Uses

The headquarters of the Florida Park Service District 4 is located at Oscar Scherer State Park. District office buildings and a stabilized parking area for staff are located north of the park drive, one-quarter mile east of the ranger station.

Protected Zones

A protected zone is an area of high sensitivity or outstanding character from which most types of development are excluded as a protective measure. Generally, facilities requiring extensive land alteration or resulting in intensive resource use, such as parking lots, camping areas, shops or maintenance areas, are not permitted in protected zones. Facilities with minimal resource impacts, such as trails, interpretive signs and boardwalks are generally allowed. All decisions involving the use of protected zones are made on a case-by-case basis after careful site planning and analysis.

At Oscar Scherer State Park the estuarine tidal swamp, estuarine tidal marsh, depression marsh and scrubby flatwoods communities have been designated as protected zones as delineated on the Conceptual Land Use Plan. Limited areas of mesic flatwoods, which buffer scrubby flatwoods, have also been designated as protected zones to protect imperiled species.

Existing Facilities

Recreation Facilities

South Creek Picnic Area
Picnic pavilion
Canoe dock and rack
Fishing dock
Observation deck
Playground
Restroom
Parking, stabilized (52 spaces)

Lake Osprey Day Use Area
Nature center
Picnic pavilions (2)
Playground
Bathhouse
Parking, stabilized (175 spaces)

Primitive Group Camp
Picnic pavilion
Campfire circle
Bathhouse

Camping Area
Standard campsites (108)
Bathhouses (5)
Campfire circle
Playground

Trails
Hiking trail, stabilized (1.5 miles)
Shared-use trails (11.5 miles)
Canoe/kayak (1 mile)

Park Support Facilities

Administration
Administration building (mobile)
Ranger station (small)
Parking, paved (6 spaces)
Residences
Buildings* (2)
Mobile homes (2)
Hook-ups and pads for employee-owned trailers (4)

Shop Area
4-bay shop
Ranger office
Carports (3)
Equipment sheds (6)
Equipment pole shelter
Flammable storage building

Shop Area
Greenhouse
Deep-water well station (2 pumps)

Lake Osprey Day Use Area
Sewage lift station
Lake aeration system
Footbridge

Camping Area
Wastewater treatment plant
Dump station
Bridge (one vehicle width)

Roads
Paved (2 miles)
Stabilized (3.8 miles)

District Support Facilities

Administration and office buildings (3)
Storage sheds (4)
Parking, stabilized (15 spaces)

*** Includes a new staff residence that is funded for construction**

CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN

The following narrative represents the current conceptual land use proposal for this park. As new information is provided regarding the environment of the park, cultural resources, recreational use, and as new land is acquired, the conceptual land use plan may be amended to address the new conditions. A detailed development plan for the park and a site plan for specific facilities will be developed based on this conceptual land use plan, as funding becomes available.

During the development of the management plan, the Division assessed potential impacts of proposed uses or development on the park resources and applied that analysis to decisions on the future physical plan of the park as well as the scale and character of proposed development. Potential impacts are more thoroughly identified and assessed as part of the site planning process once funding is available for facility development. At that stage, design elements (such as existing topography and vegetation, sewage disposal and stormwater management) and design constraints (such as designated species or cultural site locations) are more thoroughly investigated. Municipal sewer connections, advanced wastewater treatment or best available technology systems are applied for on-site sewage disposal. Stormwater management systems are designed to minimize impervious surfaces to the greatest extent feasible, and all facilities are designed and constructed using best management practices to avoid impacts and to mitigate those that cannot be avoided. Federal, state and local permit and regulatory requirements are met by the final design of the projects. This includes the design of all new park facilities consistent with the universal access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After new facilities are constructed, the park staff monitors conditions to ensure that impacts remain within acceptable levels.

Potential Uses

Public Access and Recreational Opportunities

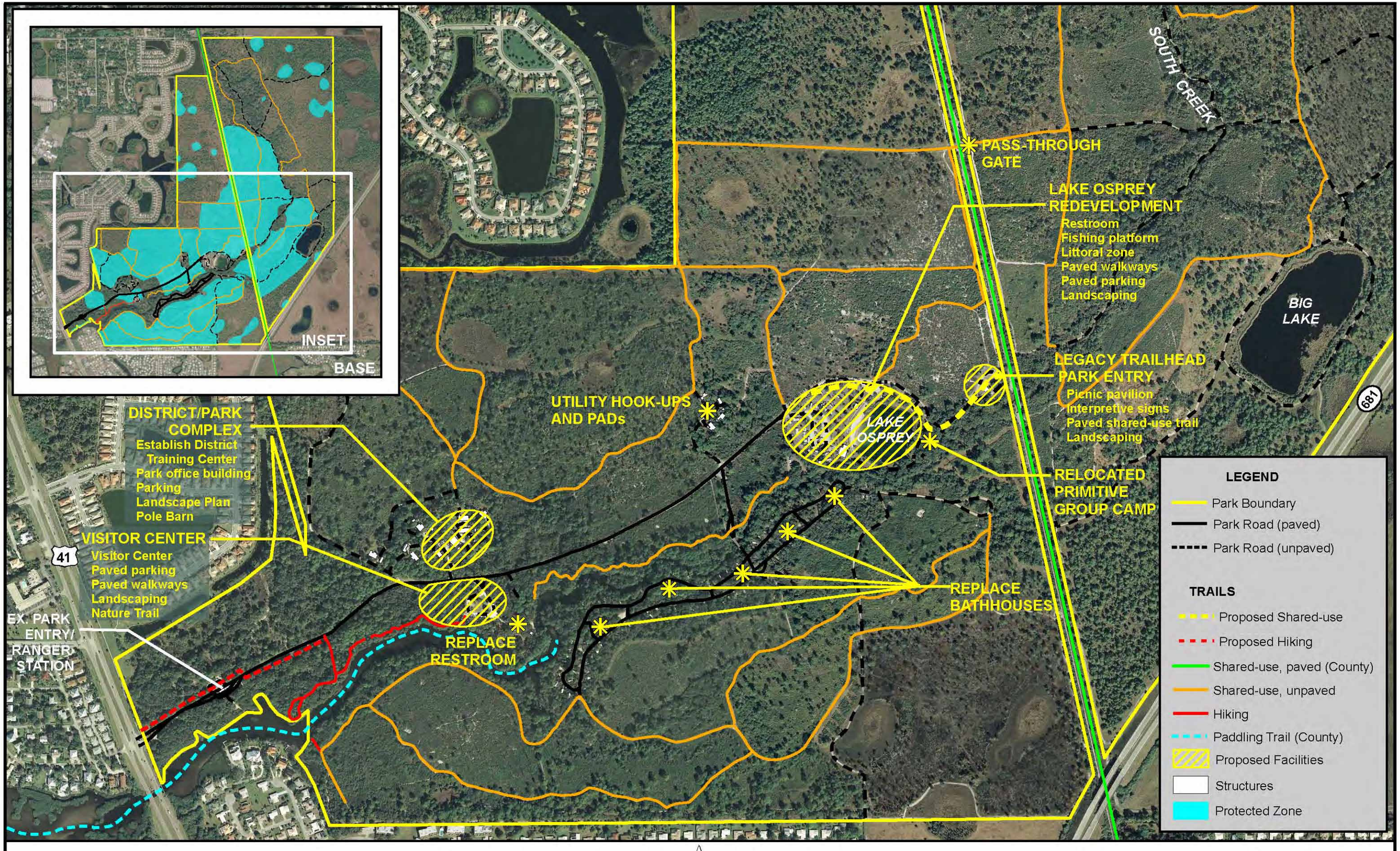
Goal: Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.

The existing recreational activities and programs of this state park are appropriate to the natural and cultural resources contained in the park and should be continued. New and improved activities and programs are also recommended and discussed below.

Objective: Maintain the park's current recreational carrying capacity of 2,397 users per day.

The park will continue to provide opportunities for hiking, bicycling, nature observation, camping, swimming, fishing, canoeing and picnicking.

Objective: Expand the park's recreational carrying capacity by 332 users per day.



OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

N

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN

The design and size of the existing nature center, located in the Lake Osprey Day Use Area, can no longer support the multiple demands of visitor, volunteer and staff events. To meet the needs of the park, a new visitor center with an interpretive hiking trail are recommended near the South Creek Picnic Area. The visitor center will be located closer to the park's entrance to provide visitors with interpretation of the park's natural resources. The Division will maintain the existing nature center for special educational programming and social events.

Renovations are also recommended for the Lake Osprey Day Use Area. The improvements will expand picnic facilities and parking. Visitors will also be provided with an accessible trail that connects to a fishing platform.

The park will develop a trailhead and paved shared-use trail to connect recreational opportunities at the park to the Sarasota County Legacy Trail corridor. Anticipated trail users include pedestrians, rollerbladers and bicyclists. Improvements and new development proposed in this plan are within the park's developed areas.

Objective: Continue to provide the current repertoire of 12 interpretive/educational programs on a regular basis.

Park programs include Ranger guided nature walks and paddling programs. Volunteers with the park's Citizen Support Organization administer a number of other programs, including children's educational programs, such as the popular "Nature Detectives," paper making from recycled products and nature based art activities. Volunteers also assist with tram tours of the park's natural areas as well as birding programs for those unable to walk the trails. Volunteers with AmeriCorps lead family orienteering events. Community programs include music festivals organized by the Sarasota Folk Club.

Objective: Develop new interpretive/educational programs.

The park's interpretive plan needs to be updated to reflect and coordinate changes within the park, region and current presentation media. The new plan will also include a new interpretive program for the proposed visitor center and accompanying half-mile interpretive trail. Suggested interpretation topics may include information about the park's trails and the county's Legacy Trail and associated heritage connections; local and regional hydrology; and imperiled species and supporting habitats.

Proposed Facilities

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

Goal: Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to implement the recommendations of the management plan.

The existing facilities of this state park are appropriate to the natural and cultural resources contained in the park and should be maintained. New construction, as

discussed further below, is recommended to improve the quality and safety of the recreational opportunities that visitors enjoy while in the park, to improve the protection of park resources, and to streamline the efficiency of park operations. The following is a summary of improved and new facilities needed to implement the conceptual land use plan for Oscar Scherer State Park.

Objective: Maintain all public and support facilities in the park.

Park staff or contracted help will maintain all capital facilities, trails and roads within the park in proper condition.

Objective: Improve eight existing park facilities, 0.25 mile of trail and 0.5 mile of road.

Recreation Facilities

Major repair projects for park facilities may be accomplished within the ten-year term of this management plan, if funding is made available. These include the modification of existing park facilities to bring them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (a top priority for all facilities maintained by the Division). Recommended improvements and repairs for the park's recreation facilities and support facilities and the district's support facilities are discussed below and organized by use area within the park.

Lake Osprey Day Use Area: Lake Osprey is the park's primary day-use recreation area. Improvements to the outdated recreation facilities will meet the current and future needs of the park's visitors. The existing picnic pavilion is incompatible with visitor needs and will be replaced with one large and two small picnic pavilions. The existing bathhouse will also be replaced with two structures: one centrally located small restroom and one outdoor shower facility located at the site of the existing bathhouse. The existing playground will be relocated towards the picnic area in order to preserve an area for open space between the large parking area and the recreational center.

It is recommended that a fishing platform be located on the southwest shoreline of Lake Osprey. The proposed platform will be a retaining structure, providing safety rails and working space for anglers. A contiguous littoral zone is also recommended for the lake. Placement of a littoral zone on the east, south and west shorelines will enhance the views of the lake and provide habitat for birds and fish as well as educational opportunities.

Paved walkways are recommended within the picnic area. The paved walkways will link the parking areas to the picnic pavilions, restroom, beach access and the nature center. Portions of an existing lakeside trail will be paved along the north, west, and south shores. Paving will extend from the existing bridge to the proposed fishing platform. In addition, the trail footbridge linking the Lake Osprey Day Use Area to the campground has deteriorated. It is recommended that the old structure be replaced

with a new footbridge.

Improved organization of the existing parking area will provide up to 65 designated parking spaces paved with asphalt. Additional parking for the lake and proposed shared-use trail will be located north of the lake. The proposed parking area will have up to 15 designated paved parking spaces, bicycle racks and an interpretive sign. Existing overflow parking north of the additional parking area will provide up to 20 unpaved parking spaces. Overflow parking on the northeast side of the lake will no longer provide parking. The area will be regraded, landscaped and incorporated into the Lake Osprey picnic area and proposed multiuse trail. The existing paved road of the park drive will extend to the additional parking and overflow areas.

Landscaping with native plants is recommended at the Lake Osprey Day Use Area to improve the microclimate and the visual quality of the site. Native trees located in areas to be redeveloped will be protected or relocated within the site. Shore areas will be planted with native aquatic and wetland species. Memorial native trees will continue to be planted in the picnic area.

South Creek Picnic Area: It is recommended that the outdated restrooms at the South Creek Picnic Area be replaced with new facilities. One medium restroom is proposed to replace the existing restroom.

Campground: The bathhouses at the campground are outdated and need to be replaced with new facilities. Five bathhouses are proposed to replace the existing structures.

The Legacy Trail Trailhead and Shared-use Trail: The existing restroom located near the park's entrance to the Legacy Trail will continue to be maintained for park visitors and trail users. The facility was a support facility for the youth camp, which is being relocated. The restroom should be reroofed and painted to match the adjacent proposed picnic shelter.

Primitive Group Camp: The Division will relocate the Primitive Group Camp that is used by youth groups away from the new Legacy Trail entry for camper safety. The proposed site will be southeast of Lake Osprey and north of South Creek in the cleared area of an abandoned service road for an improved camping experience. If a better alternative site becomes available within the park before permanent structures are constructed, the Division will consider relocating the group camp to the more favorable site.

The camp will provide a small restroom and primitive facilities, including fire rings and stabilized tent sites. Water and sewer lines for the restroom will tie into the existing service lines of the nature center located on the southeast shore of Lake Osprey. A

portion of an existing service road will be retained and gated to provide selective access to the group camp. Group Camp users will have access to Lake Osprey and its recreation facilities, South Creek and park trails.

Support Facilities

District Administration: Currently, both district and park staff training takes place at the nature center located at Lake Osprey. The Division has obligated funds to construct a new manager's residence near the shop area. To better accommodate district-wide operations, the existing manager's residence building will be remodeled to establish a district training center that also supports planning and coordination activities. If it is not feasible to remodel the existing building, the structure will be removed and a new building will be constructed for the training center. Additional stabilized parking as necessary is also recommended.

Park Administration: At present, the park's administration office is located in an outdated mobile home renovated for office use. It is recommended that a permanent office building be built for park management and staff to replace the existing facility. Additional stabilized parking, as needed, is also recommended.

Shop Area: Many of the shop structures were replaced as recommended in the approved plan; however, covered parking is needed for maintaining large equipment. Therefore, a six-bay pole barn is recommended for the shop area.

Infrastructure: Routine maintenance on the South Creek Picnic Area water lines limits water accessibility for the entire park and need renovation. It is also recommended that water lines to the picnic area be replaced and isolated from the park's main water line.

The park's sewage treatment is disposed through septic tanks, drain-field systems, and a sewage wastewater treatment plant. Phase one of the park's Sarasota Utilities sewer line project has been funded and is currently under construction. The project will tie a portion of the park's sewer lines into Sarasota County's central sewage system. Phase two will connect the remainder of the park's wastewater into the county's central sewer service when funding becomes available.
The park will remove a deteriorated mobile home from the park, providing space for two employee-owned trailers. Utility services and pads will be provided for the additional employee-owned trailer.

It is recommended that a landscape plan be developed for the district and park office complex. The plan should tie buildings together within the complex using walkways, roads, parking and landscaping.

Objective: Construct two new facilities and 1.1 miles of trail.

Recreation Facilities

Visitor Center and Interpretive Trail: A new visitor center and interpretive trail is recommended near the South Creek Picnic Area. The visitor center will provide the park with an air-conditioned building that will serve as a hub for exhibit space, interpretive programming, education and up to two offices. The nature center's interpretation program will be relocated to the new facility and should be updated with the development of the new visitor center. The proposed building site will provide a contemplative atmosphere and entry for the visitor center's new interpretive hiking trail and prevent user conflicts at the existing nature center, located at Lake Osprey. The nature center will continue to serve visitors and volunteers as a recreation hall, providing space for meetings, special events, interpretive education and related crafts.

The half-mile interpretive hiking trail will provide educational opportunities that address riparian and upland habitats. A scrubby flatwoods restoration within the site will increase the qualities of the surrounding habitat and landscape and increase the user's knowledge of restoration processes. The interpretive trail will be sited to optimize the essential character of the interpreted natural communities and connect to existing trails.

The entrance road to the proposed visitor center and the South Creek Picnic Area will be realigned perpendicular to the road. Existing parking will be reorganized to provide up to 45 spaces and paved with asphalt or stabilized and surfaced with aggregate. Visitors using the picnic area and kayak/canoe launch will continue to use the redeveloped parking area. The entrance and parking to the proposed visitor center and South Creek Picnic Area will be landscaped for wooded visibility to the new building. Existing trees and native vegetation will be preserved where possible.

Legacy Trail Park Entry, Trailhead and Shared-use Trail: As directed in a Memorandum of Agreement between the Division and Sarasota County, a trailhead and connecting shared-use trail are proposed at the park's entrance on the Legacy Trail corridor. The trailhead will have the presence of a park entry and will be located at the former site of the Primitive Group Camp and the county's new trail access ramp. A gate with bollards and an honor box for fee collection are proposed for the new trail entrance. A small custom picnic pavilion, with a train depot appearance, will replace the outdated pavilion located at this site. An interpretive sign is also proposed for this area.

Existing trees and native shrubs within this area will be preserved whenever possible. Scrub species will be planted to maintain a low growth habit for the protection of the resident Florida scrub-jays *(Aphelocoma coerulescens)* and improve the microclimate for visitors.

A pass-through entrance gate north of the proposed park trailhead entrance and

interpretive sign is also recommended for hikers accessing undeveloped lands east of the Legacy Trail. The proposed entrance will link western and eastern park lands, hiking trail systems and the overlook at Big Lake via The Legacy Trail.

It is also recommended that a paved shared-use trail connection begin from the county's trail access ramp and tie into the park drive. The proposed trail will be ten-foot wide, paved with asphalt and meander through canopy between the lakeshore and the existing service road before tying into the park drive. A portion of the service road will remain, providing access to the relocated Primitive Group Camp. Anticipated trail users will include pedestrians, bicyclists and roller skaters.

Main Park Entrance Trail Connection: A 0.3-mile unpaved trail is recommended to provide pedestrian access to the park near the county's bus stop located just north of the park's entrance. If feasible, the trail will be developed within the disturbed limits of the Sarasota Utilities sewer line project currently being constructed adjacent to the main park drive. The trail will not create additional impacts to the surrounding natural communities or more of a barrier to wildlife. The trail will link into an existing hiking trail that connects to the South Creek picnic area and the Lake Osprey Day Use Area.

Facilities Development

Preliminary cost estimates for these recommended facilities, improvements are provided in the Ten-Year Implementation Schedule, and Cost Estimates (Table 6) located in the Implementation Component of this plan. These cost estimates are based on the most cost-effective construction standards available at this time. The preliminary estimates are provided to assist the Division in budgeting future park improvements, and may be revised as more information is collected through the planning and design processes. The following is a summary of facilities needed to implement the conceptual land use plan for Oscar Scherer State Park.

Facility Improvements

Lake Osprey Day Use Area
Picnic pavilions (1 large, 2 small)
Restroom (1 small)
Outdoor shower facility (1)
Fishing platform
Littoral zone
Paved walkways (0.34 mile)
Hiking trail, paved (0.25 mile)
Footbridge
Parking, paved (80 spaces)
Bicycle racks
Interpretive signs (5)
Landscaping

South Creek Picnic Area
Restroom (1 medium)

Campground
Bathhouses (3 large, 2 small)

Trails
Pass-through gate
Interpretive sign

Primitive Group Camp
Restroom (1 small)
Stabilized tent sites
Fire rings

Gate

Support Facilities:

District Administration
Establish training building
Landscape Plan

Park Administration
Administration office building

Shop Area
Six-bay pole barn

South Creek Picnic Area
Water line renovation

Residence Area
Utility hook-ups (2)
Pad (2)

Campground
Entrance bridge
Paved roads (0.5 mile)

New Facilities

Visitor Center and Interpretive Trail
Visitor center
Hiking trail (0.5 mile)
Parking, paved (43 spaces)
Landscaping

Legacy Trail Park Entry, Trailhead and Shared-use Trail
Gate with bollards
Picnic pavilion (1 large)
Interpretive sign
Landscaping
Site amenities
Shared-use trail, paved (0.3 mile)

Park Entry Trail Connection
Hiking trail, stabilized (0.3 mile)

Existing Use and Recreational Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity is an estimate of the number of users a recreation resource or facility can accommodate and still provide a high quality recreational experience and preserve the natural values of the site. The carrying capacity of a unit is determined by identifying the land and water requirements for each recreation activity at the unit, and then applying these requirements to the unit's land and water base. Next, guidelines are applied which estimate the physical capacity of the unit's natural communities to withstand recreational uses without significant degradation. This analysis identifies a range within which the carrying capacity most appropriate to the specific activity, the activity site and the unit's classification is selected (see Table 5).

The recreational carrying capacity for this park is a preliminary estimate of the number of users the unit could accommodate after the current conceptual development program has been implemented. When developed, the proposed new facilities would approximately increase the unit's carrying capacity as shown in Table 5.

Table 5--Existing Use and Recreational Carrying Capacity

	Existing Capacity		Proposed Additional Capacity		Estimated Recreational Capacity	
Activity/Facility	**One Time**	**Daily**	**One Time**	**Daily**	**One Time**	**Daily**
Nature Center	49	49	0	0	49	49
Visitor Center	0	0	60	240	60	240
Camping						
Standard	864	864	0	0	864	864
Primitive Group	30	30	0	0	30	30
Picnicking	296	592	0	0	296	592
Swimming	240	480	0	0	240	480
Trails						
Hiking	60	120	23	92	83	212
Shared-use	115	230	0	0	115	230
Canoe/Kayaking	16	32	0	0	16	32
TOTAL	**1,670**	**2,397**	**83**	**332**	**1,753**	**2,729**

Note: The fishing facilities are assumed to serve the same recreational user base as the picnic area, therefore, no carrying capacity is determined for them.

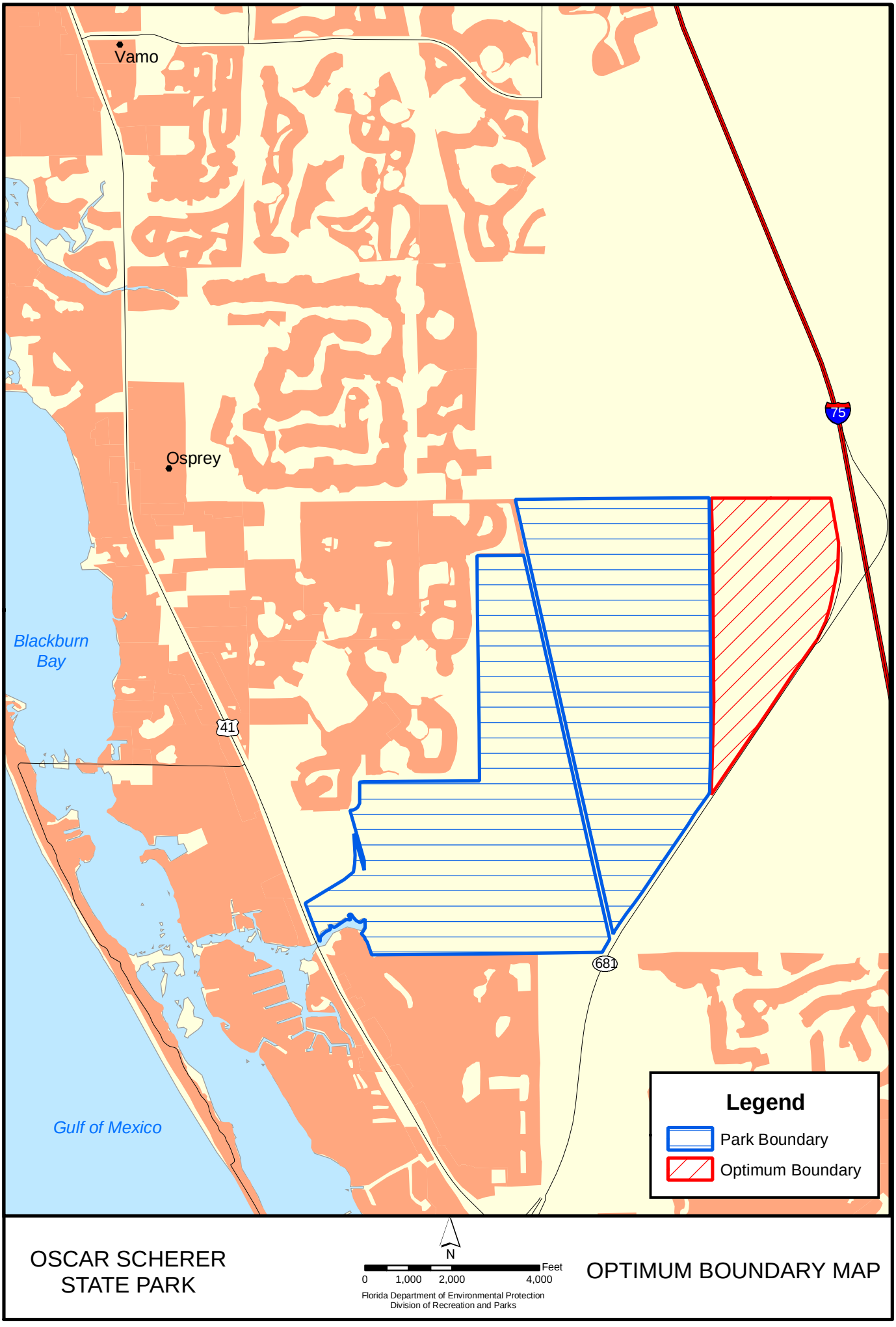
Optimum Boundary

As additional needs are identified through park use, development, research, and as adjacent land uses change on private properties, modification of the unit's optimum boundary may occur for the enhancement of natural and cultural resources, recreational values and management efficiency. At this time, no lands are considered surplus to the needs of the park.

Identification of lands on the optimum boundary map is solely for planning purposes and not for regulatory purposes. A property's identification on the optimum boundary map is not for use by any party or other government body to reduce or restrict the lawful right of private landowners. Identification on the map does not empower or require any government entity to impose additional or more restrictive environmental land use or zoning regulations. Identification is not to be used as the basis for permit denial or the imposition of permit conditions.

The optimum boundary map reflects lands identified for direct management by the Division as part of the park. These parcels may include public as well as privately owned lands that improve the continuity of existing park lands, provide additional natural and cultural resource protection and/or allow for future expansion of recreational activities.

Changes to the optimum boundary reflect the development or proposed development of parcels adjacent to the park's northern and western boundaries. Acquiring parcels adjacent to the eastern boundary would serve the park by providing buffers and important native habitat (see Optimum Boundary Map).



OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

OPTIMUM BOUNDARY MAP

IMPLEMENTATION COMPONENT

The resource management and land use components of this management plan provide a thorough inventory of the park's natural, cultural and recreational resources. They outline the park's management needs and problems, and recommend both short and long-term objectives and actions to meet those needs. The implementation component addresses the administrative goal for the park and reports on the Division's progress toward achieving resource management, operational and capital improvement goals and objectives since approval of the previous management plan for this park. This component also compiles the management goals, objectives and actions expressed in the separate parts of this management plan for easy review. Estimated costs for the ten-year period of this plan are provided for each action and objective, and the costs are summarized under standard categories of land management activities.

MANAGEMENT PROGRESS

Since the approval of the last management plan for Oscar Scherer State Park in 2001, significant work has been accomplished and progress made towards meeting the Division's management objectives for the park. These accomplishments fall within three of the five general categories that encompass the mission of the park and the Division.

Acquisition

- In 2008, the State received a donation of sixteen acres by Lee Wetherington for management as Oscar Scherer State Park.

Park Administration and Operations

- The park has expanded volunteer hours at the Nature Center to facilitate additional visitors during the peak season.
- The Friends of Oscar Scherer Park, Inc., the park's volunteer organization, have won multiple Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Project of the Year Awards for their work, including improving the hiking trails. Volunteers logged over 29,037 hours during the past fiscal years.

Resource Management

- Since the approved 2001 Unit Management Plan, 1,889 acres have been burned.
- The mechanical treatment of scrubby flatwoods, in addition to increased burning of backlogged acres, sustains a regionally significant population of Florida scrub-jays at the park.
- Burn zones have achieved maintenance stage and are maintained as such.
- All perimeter fire lines were widened to meet the Division's standards.
- Timbering in 2004 lessened predation mortality for Florida scrub-jays in the park.
- Park management developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the county to permit park staff to conduct resource management activities within the Legacy Trail right of way, resulting in improved scrub that is "contiguous" with adjacent

park lands.

- To date, the park has removed 225 nuisance and exotic animals and treated 568 acres of exotic plants.
- With assistance of the AmeriCorps program, the park maintains control the invasive exotic melaleuca plant species with routine maintenance.
- The Bureau of Invasive Plant Management treated exotic plants adjacent to the Sarasota County's Legacy Trail right of way and lands adjacent to State Road 681.
- Through two mitigation projects, the removal of approximately 200,000 square feet of Brazilian peppers along South Creek has been accomplished.
- Park management and its Citizen Support Organization continue to participate in the regional planning process for establishing landscape connections between the park and other public lands to the east.

Recreation and Visitor Services

- The park has constructed two butterfly nurseries for the Ranger Station and Nature Center as part of the unit's "Get Real Program."
- In 2008, access from the Legacy Trail to amenities within the park was established.
- A scenic overlook adjacent to Big Lake was constructed as an trail amenity within the park lands east of the Legacy Trail, .

Park Facilities

- The park widened and stabilized existing walkways in the picnic areas.
- The campground road was repaved.
- The Nature Center opened on January 17, 2002, educating visitors about the park's natural communities and native fauna.
- Improvements were made to the Nature Center, including a screen room, small pavilion and shop office.
- A new office for park staff was constructed in the shop area.
- A planting shed/greenhouse was constructed to propagate native species.
- Nine new programs were implemented, including three children's programs, tram tours, volunteer activities, folk and Native American art festivals and the AmeriCorps volunteer program.

MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This management plan is written for a ten-year timeframe, as required by Section 253.034 Florida Statutes. The Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates (Table 6) summarize the management goals, objectives and actions that are recommended for implementation over this period. Measures are identified for assessing progress toward completing each objective and action. A timeframe for completing each objective and action is provided. Preliminary cost estimates for each action are provided and the estimated total costs to complete each objective are

computed. Finally, all costs are consolidated under the following five standard land management categories: Resource Management, Administration and Support, Capital Improvements, Recreation Visitor Services and Law Enforcement.

Many of the actions identified in the plan can be implemented using existing staff and funding. However, a number of actions have been identified that are unlikely to be carried out during the life of this plan unless additional resources are provided. The ten-year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates table therefore includes both "funded" and "unfunded" needs.
The administration of the state park is an ongoing cost that will increase in the future as additional staff, programs and responsibilities are assigned. These administrative costs include a variety of activities, such as the administration of personnel, the management of vendors and contractors for all the park's supply and service needs and the coordination of the park's Citizen Support Organization, to name a few.

The plan's recommended actions, timeframes and cost estimates will guide the Division's planning and budgeting activities over the period of this plan. It must be noted that these recommendations are based on the information that exists at the time the plan was prepared. A high degree of adaptability and flexibility must be built into this process to ensure that the Division can adjust to changes in the availability of funds, improved understanding of the park's natural and cultural resources, and changes in statewide land management issues, priorities and policies.

Statewide priorities for all aspects of land management are evaluated each year as part of the process for developing the Division's annual legislative budget requests. When preparing these annual requests, the Division considers the needs and priorities of the entire state park system and the projected availability of funding from all sources during the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to annual legislative appropriations, the Division pursues supplemental sources of funds and staff resources wherever possible, including grants, volunteers and partnerships with other entities. The Division's ability to accomplish the specific actions identified in the plan will be determined largely by the availability of funds and staff for these purposes, which may vary from year to year. Therefore, it may become necessary to adjust the schedule, cost or both.

Table 6
Oscar Scherer State Park Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates

NOTE: THE DIVISION'S ABILITY TO COMPLETE THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS CONTINGENT ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THESE PURPOSES.

Goal I: Provide administrative support for all park functions.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Continue day-to-day administrative support at current levels.**	Administrative support ongoing	C	**$950,000**
Objective B	**Expand administrative support as new lands are acquired, new facilities are developed, or as other needs arise.**	Administrative support expanded	UFN	**$40,000**
Goal II: Protect water quality and quantity in the park, restore hydrology to the extent feasible, and maintain the restored condition.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Conduct/obtain an assessment of the park's hydrological restoration needs.**	Assessments continued	C	**$75,000**
Objective B	**Restore natural hydrological conditions and function to approximately 15 acres of Blackwater stream natural community.**	# Acres restored or with restoration underway	C	**$34,900**
Action 1	Continue to look for hydrological restoration alternatives for South Creek.	# Acres restored or with	LT	$6,000
Action 2	Continue to remove and treat exotic vegetation parallel to South Creek while protecting native vegetation.	# Acres treated	C	$18,900
Action 3	Evaluate impacts on South Creek from drainage ditches and conduct remedial measures if needed.	# Acres treated	C	$10,000
Objective C	**Monitor and analyze water resources in the park.**	Monitoring ongoing	C	**$51,600**
Action 1	Continue to collect water quality data from identified surface waters within the park.	Annual Report	C	$46,100
Action 2	Evaluate groundwater wells within the park for re-activation.	# of wells reactivated	ST	$3,000
Action 3	Continue to monitor for bank erosion on South Creek.	Monitoring ongoing	C	$2,500

* 2011 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Table 6
Oscar Scherer State Park Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
Sheet 2 of 4

Goal lII: Restore and maintain the natural communities/habitats of the park.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Within 10 years have 1,235 acres of the park maintained within optimal fire return interval.**	# Acres within fire return interval target	LT	**$577,100**
Action 1	Update annual burn plan.	Plan updated	C	$16,000
Action 2	Manage fire dependent communities for ecosystem function, structure and processes by burning between 355-1030 acres annually.	Average # acres burned	C	$474,500
Action 3	Annually mechanically treat approximately 75 acres of mesic flatwoods and 20 acres of scrubby flatwoods.	Average # acres treated	C	$86,600
Objective B	**Conduct natural community/habitat improvement activities on 80 acres of scrubby flatwoods and 60 acres of mesic flatwoods communities.**	# Acres improved or with improvements underway	C	**$30,000**
Objective C	**Continue to work with the county and landowners to maintain a landscape connection between the park and public lands east of the park.**	Connection established	LT	**$5,000**
Goal IV: Maintain, improve or restore imperiled species populations and habitats in the park.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Update baseline imperiled species occurrence inventory lists for plants and animals.**	List updated	C	**$7,400**
Objective B	**Monitor and document 3 selected imperiled animal species in the park.**	# Species monitored	C	**$139,000**
Action 1	Continue to develop monitoring protocols for 3 selected imperiled animal species, including the Florida scrub jay, gopher tortoise and Florida mouse.	# Protocols developed	ST	$8,000
Action 2	Implement monitoring protocols for 3 imperiled animal species including those listed in Action 1 above.	# Species monitored	C	$101,000
Action 3	Seek funding/manpower to implement additional studies on Florida scrub-jay population biology.	Study implemented	LT	$30,000
Objective C	**Monitor and document all imperiled plant species in the park.**	Monitoring ongoing	C	**$4,800**

* 2011 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Table 6
Oscar Scherer State Park Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
Sheet 3 of 4

Goal V: Remove exotic and invasive plants and animals from the park and conduct needed maintenance-control.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Annually treat 20 acres of exotic plant species in the park.**	# Acres treated	C	**$57,400**
Action 1	Update annual work plan for exotic plant management.	Plan Updated	C	$16,000
Action 2	Implement annual work plan for exotic plant management.	Plan Implemented	C	$41,400
Objective B	**Implement control measures on 2 exotic and nuisance animal species in the park.**	# Species for which control measures implemented	C	**$5,000**
Action 1	Remove feral hogs from the park as necessary.	Animals removed	C	$3,500
Action 2	Remove feral house cats as necessary	Animals removed	C	$1,000
Action 2	Remove other exotic or nuisance animals as they are encountered.	Animals removed	C	$500
Goal VI: Protect, preserve and maintain the cultural resources of the park.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Assess and evaluate 4 of 4 recorded cultural resources in the park.**	Documentation completed	ST	**$300**
Objective B	**Compile reliable documentation for all recorded historic and archaeological sites.**	Documentation complete	LT	**$18,800**
Objective C	**Maintain 4 of 4 recorded cultural resources in good condition.**	# Sites in good condition	C	**$800**

* 2011 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Table 6
Oscar Scherer State Park Ten-Year Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
Sheet 4 of 4

Goal VII: Provide public access and recreational opportunities in the park.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Maintain the park's current recreational carrying capacity of 2,397 users per day.**	# Recreation/visitor opportunities per day	C	**$1,890,000**
Objective B	**Expand the park's recreational carrying capacity by 332 users per day.**	# Recreation/visitor opportunities per day	UFN	**$306,000**
Action 1	Develop 3 new recreational opportunities including trailhead facilities for the Legacy Trail and accessible fishing.	# Recreation/visitor opportunities per day	UFN	$306,000
Objective C	**Continue to provide the current repertoire of 12 interpretive and educational programs on a regular basis.**	# Interpretive/education programs	C	**$47,000**
Objective D	**Develop new interpretive/educational programs.**	# Interpretive/education programs	UFN	**$15,000**
Goal VIII: Develop and maintain the capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the goals and objectives of this management plan.		**Measure**	**Planning Period**	**Total Estimated Manpower and Expense Cost* (10-years)**
Objective A	**Maintain all public and support facilities in the park.**	Facilities maintained	C	**$3,150,000**
Objective B	**Expand maintenance activities for new facilities as they are completed.**	Maintenance activities expanded	UFN	**$211,000**
Objective C	**Continue to implement the park's transition plan to ensure facilities are accessible in accordance with the**	Plan implemented	UFN	**$130,000**
Objective D	**Improve 8 existing park facilities, .25 mile of trail and .5 mile of road.**	# Facilities/# Mile of Trail/# Mile of Road	UFN	**$5,435,000**
Objective F	**Construct 2 new facilities and 1.1 miles of trail.**	# Facilities/# Mile of Trail	UFN	**$1,041,000**

Summary of Estimated Costs

Management Categories		**Estimated Cost***
Resource Management		**$1,007,100**
Administration and Support		**$990,000**
Capital Improvements		**$6,476,000**
Recreation Visitor Services		**$5,619,000**
Law Enforcement Activities[1]		

[1]Law enforcement activities in Florida State Parks are conducted by the DEP Division of Law Enforcement and by local law enforcement agencies.

* 2011 Dollars
ST = actions within 2 years
LT = actions within 10 years
C = long term or short term actions that are continuous or cyclical
UFN = currently unfunded need

Addendum 1 — Acquisition History

Purpose of Acquisition

In 1956, the State of Florida acquired Oscar Scherer State Park for the use and benefit of the State to use the property as a public park, for public recreation and as a wild life sanctuary.

Sequence of Acquisition

On September 15, 1956, the State of Florida obtained title to a 487.66-acre property constituting the initial area of Oscar Scherer State Park. The State received the property from Elsa Scherer Burrows, as a donation in memory of her father, Oscar Scherer. Since the initial donation, the State acquired several individual parcels under Conservation and Recreation Lands fund (CARL) and Preservation 2000 funds and added them to Oscar Scherer State Park. To date, the park contains 1,381.62 acres.

Lease Agreement

The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees) granted management authority to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department), Division of Recreation and Parks (Division) on January 31, 1968. The lease stipulates a management purpose of developing, operating and maintaining the lands for outdoor recreational, park, conservation, historic and related purposes.

Title Interest

The Trustees hold fee simple title to Oscar Scherer State Park.

Special Conditions on Use

At Oscar Scherer State Park, public outdoor recreation and conservation is the designated single use of the property. There are no legislative or executive directives that constrain the use of this property. Uses such as water resource development projects, water supply projects, storm-water management projects, and linear facilities and sustainable agriculture and forestry, other than those forest management activities specifically identified in this plan, are not consistent with this management plan.

Outstanding Reservations

Following is a listing of encumbrances that apply to Oscar Scherer State Park.

Type of Instrument:.....Indenture
Grantor:.....E. .A. Springstead and Nellie Mae Springstead
Grantee:.....The State of Florida for the benefit of FBPHM
Beginning Date:.....August 24, 1961
Ending Date:.....As long as the property is used for park and recreation
Encumbrance: .....If said lands are not used for recreational purposes for a period of five (5) consecutive years, title to the property shall automatically revert to the grantor.

Type of Instrument:.....Right- of- Way Easement
Grantor:.....FBPHM
Grantee:.....Florida Power and Light Company
Beginning Date:.....June 18, 1961
Ending Date:..... Ending Date is not given.
Encumbrances:.....The easement allows the Florida Power and Light Company to construct, operate and maintain electric power lines across a portion of Oscar Scherer State Park.

Type of Instrument:.....Fee Simple Deed
Grantor:.....Waters Field Burrows
Grantee:.....State of Florida for the benefit of FBPHM
Beginning Date:.....September 12, 1956
Ending Date:.....perpetuity
Encumbrance:.....The Fee Simple Deed states that the property conveyed under this document is conveyed subject to the property being used only for public park, public recreation and as a wildlife sanctuary and shall be known as "Oscar Scherer Florida State Park."

Addendum 2—Advisory Group Composition and Meeting Staff Report

The Honorable Jon Thaxton,
Commissioner
Sarasota County Board of
County Commissioners
1660 Ringling Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Mr. John Roche, Manager
Oscar Scherer State Park
1843 South Tamiami Trail
Osprey, Florida 34229

The Honorable Todd Underhill,
Chair
Sarasota Soil and Water
Conservation District
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Mr. Mike Keegan
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Mr. Paul Thomas
Biological Scientist IV
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Kim Heuberger
Sarasota County Government
Manager, Parkland Acquisition and
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Phillippi Estate Park
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Dave Feagles, President
Florida Native Plant Society,
Serenoa Chapter
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Mr. Russ Delaney, President
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Oscar Scherer State Park
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Representative:
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Friends of Oscar Scherer State Park
Oscar Scherer State Park
1843 South Tamiami Trail
Osprey, Florida 34229

Mr. Mike Gippert, President
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Venice, Florida 34292

Representative:
Mr. Jay Leland
Friends of the Legacy Trail
Oscar Scherer State Park
440 North Tamiami Trail
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Mr. Tom Flanagan, President
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Justin Powell
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Lee Wetherington
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The appointed Advisory Group met to review the draft management plan update for Oscar Scherer State Park at the Nature Center located in Oscar Scherer State Park, Osprey, Florida, December 1, 2010. Commissioner Jon Thaxton, Mr. Russ Delaney, Mr. Mike Gippert and Justin Powell did not attend the meeting. Mr. Bruce Snyder was the representative for the Friends of Oscar Scherer State Park (or CSO) and Mr. Jay Leland was the representative for the Friends of the Legacy Trail. Attending Division of Recreation and Parks (Division) staff included Valinda Subic (District Bureau Chief), Ezell (B.J.) Givens (Assistant District Bureau Chief), John Roche (Park Manager), Tony Clements (Assistant Park Manager), Sally Braem (District Biologist) and Jill Owens (Park Planner). The meeting started with brief introductions of everyone in attendance. Ms. Owens gave a brief summary of the Public Meeting and a description of the procedures used to conduct the Advisory Group review of the plan. She then notified the members of the recent adjustment to the Optimum Boundary, including the pending removal of parcels from the Optimum Boundary Map and related text revisions, as requested by the property owner. Ms. Owens then opened the floor to the Advisory Group members and attending staff.

SUMMARY OF ADVISORY GROUP COMMENTS

Ms. Valinda Subic confirmed the requested changes to the Optimum Boundary and further clarified the purpose of the boundary's conceptual purpose for the enhancement of land and resource management and recreational opportunities and had no legal implications to identified lands.

Ms. Kim Heuberger identified the county's recent acquisition of lands east of Interstate 75, in addition to the Honore Avenue extension, and requested the vicinity map reflect those changes. She suggested a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement between the county and the Division is included as an appendix.

Mr. Tom Flanagan stated that he supported the relocation of the Primitive Group Camp and the proposed Legacy Trail access gate to the park's eastern lands. He also said the proposed Visitor Center is an improvement by lessening conflicts between user groups.

Mr. Paul Thomas had questions about the fish inventory cited within the Resource Management Component and noted that not all fish species were cited. He proposed that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission perform a survey for the Division if feasible. Mr. Thomas also inquired about the hydrilla identified in the plan and said he would like to see the proposed fishing platform constructed when funding becomes available. Mr. Roche identified the area within the park where the hydrilla had been located and that it was treated. In reference to the development of new park facilities, Mr. Roche and Ms. Subic informed the group that funding, including matching funds for the Partnership in Parks program, are not anticipated due to the current budget constraints. Ms. Owens explained that although the proposed facilities and land management activities lack funding, these items are included in the plan

should funding become available.

Ms. Jeannie Dubi expressed concern with regard to funding for the park. She also asked Sally to clarify the designations within the Imperiled Species Inventory table and inquired when the last bird survey was done in the park. She also offered assistance of members of the Sarasota Audubon Society to assist the park with the update of the survey. Ms. Dubi asked about timber management within the park and snag retention. She was concerned about the increase of visitors using the trails and the effects on the scrub-jays. Ms. Dubi asked that the carrying capacity for the park be reevaluated. Ms. Braem identified Addendum 5 as a reference for imperiled species ranking definitions and said help from the society's members would be appreciated. Mr. Clements explained that timber management was used for restoration purposes and not as a revenue source. He also acknowledged the function of snags and said they were retained by the park if they posed no hazards to humans and property. Ms. Owens identified the Division's use of carrying capacities to provide a balance of recreation while preserving natural resources and that the quality of the visitor's experience was the foundation from which capacities are calculated. Ms. Owens explained the meaning of the rates of turnovers and said she would review the proposed carrying capacity for the park.

Mr. Jay Leland provided support for the park, was thankful for park's partnership with the Legacy Trail and stated that the Friends of the Legacy Trail support the 10-year management plan. He also cited the park's connection as a measure of safety for trail users and predicted that amenities and parking at the new county park located north of the park would alleviate impacts caused by transient visitors within Oscar Scherer State Park. Mr. Roche would like more accurate visitor numbers accessing the park from the trail, but iron rangers did not reflect true counts and suggested the county may be able to provide a trail survey. Mr. Clements noted that the park is concerned with trail users feeding the scrub-jays and that additional interpretive signs would benefit the park's wildlife.

Mr. Lee Wetherington also expressed concern regarding the park's funding and if there were other sources other than state money. He also inquired about the feasibility for a wildlife corridor. John identified the park's use of CSO and staff grant writers for obtaining funds whenever possible. John also explained that wildlife corridors were cited in the county's Blackburn Sector Plan, including oversized culverts and transportation corridor underpasses.

Mr. Mike Keegan asked about the population decline of the park's scrub-jays and if the decline of the birds on adjacent lands has affected the park's population. Mr. Keegan also state that he supported the relocation of the primitive group camp and asked if the 50-year old structures would have to be retained. He also suggested that the park burn through the ecotones and acknowledged the challenges of conducting prescribed burns

within an unban environment. Mr. Keegan also requested the park to share the results of the park's Bahia grass test plots. Ms. Braem informed the group that no outside scrub-jays have been observed in the park within the past two years (It is possible that there is immigration from outside the park, personal comment Terry Hingtgen, District Environmental Specialist). Mr. Roche indicated that the park would not retain the existing structures of the group camp because they were not considered architecturally important structures and that the park consults with the Department of Historical Resources regarding the management to the park's cultural resources. Mr. Clements informed the group that the Bahia grass test plots are showing good results because of prescribed burns and the restoration of native grasses and that the park would share the results of the test.

Mr. Todd Underhill stated that he would like to see the resource management plan captured more accurately; particularly natural community conditions and the indexing of prescribed restoration objectives and actions within targeted management zones. He added that the natural communities' descriptions were too generic and needed to be more specific. Mr. Underhill inquired about indexing methods used by staff for species count. Ms. Braem noted Mr. Underhill's suggestion regarding the enhancement of resource management description. She identified the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) system of classifying natural communities as the Division's reference and that the description had been modified to reflect the park's communities. Ms. Braem also identified inventorying as the park's method for counting species.

Mr. Bruce Snyder expressed support on behave of the CSO for the goals and objectives identified in the draft of the park's unit management plan update.

Mr. Dave Feagles complimented staff on the plan, but had deep concerns regarding the region's environmental philosophies, habitat destruction due to development and the decline of the scrub-jays. He expressed apprehension regarding possible impacts from the proposed carrying capacities, but acknowledged the need for visitors to educate future stewards. Mr. Feagles recognized the rareness of the scrubby flatwoods and its intrinsic value beyond recreation value. He suggested the possibility of relocating the park's scrub-jay population to safer lands. Mr. Feagles said he had difficulty following the plan's references to management areas. He also said he was disturbed about the alteration of the Optimum Boundary and asked if the boundary could incorporate lands south of 681. Mr. Feagles would like to see the Division use permeable surfacing for the proposed parking areas and suggested limestone or gridded pavers as alternatives. Ms. Owens explained that the Division does not typically acquire lands bisected by transportation corridors or that may contain development and, for purposes of land management, strives to obtain contiguous lands and boundaries. Mr. Roche stated he was not concerned about the increase of visitors and views this as an opportunity to educate and for volunteer recruitment. Mr. Clements identified the park's regular visitors as assets to the park, because they tend to report problems and misuse of the

park's resources. Mr. Roche said he also preferred pervious paving where possible and indicated they would be considered for the proposed areas.

Summary of Written Comments

Commissioner Jon Thaxton: Commissioner Thaxton provided written comments. He identified minor editorial changes and wanted further clarification within the plan regarding species inventory, the status of the Downstream Photon Veto Detector (DSPV) for nutrient values within South Creek, carrying capacities, areas within the park identified as "protected." He has requested references of the proposed greenway corridor to include text stressing the critical need of the corridor for sustaining wildlife populations within the park. Commissioner Thaxton would also like the citizen lead initiative identified in the acquisition of 1000 acres of additional park lands. He also identified the county's recent acquisition of lands east of Interstate 75, in addition to the Honore Avenue extension, and requested the vicinity map reflect those changes. Commissioner Thaxton also provided an update of the county's deferred EEZ plan and requested the change be noted in the plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The park currently has a minimal budget to conduct routine maintenance, land management activities and minimal facilities development at the park. The Division will seek funding to provide the proposed public and support facilities and will consider potential impacts to the park's wildlife, surrounding area and adjacent property owners as development of the park and land management moves forward.

Recommendations for editorial changes and updates to the Resource Management Component have been reviewed. Staff has incorporated the proposed changes as needed.

Division staff strives to use the most current local government land use information. Text has been updated in the Adjacent Land Use section to reflect changes that occurred during the development of the management plan. Maps will also be updated to reflect those changes when information becomes available.

A portion of park's central sewage system is in the process of being connected to county services. Revisions to the plan will incorporate additional and updated information regarding this improvement.

The Division is committed to the preservation of the Florida scrub-jay and the conservation of its supporting scrubby flatwoods community. Staff has reviewed the carrying capacities for the proposed recreation facilities, believes the estimates reflect an optimum visitor experience for the day use areas, camping areas, and trails while preserving important wildlife habitat. Carrying capacities have been reduced for the Visitor Center.

The Optimum Boundary has been revised at the request of the adjacent property owner. Those changes are now reflected in the park's management plan.

Additional minor editorial changes were applied where appropriate. With the identified changes, Division staff recommends approval of the draft management plan for Oscar Scherer State Park.

Notes on Composition of the Advisory Group

Florida Statutes Chapter 259.032 Paragraph 10(b) establishes a requirement that all state land management plans for properties greater than 160 acres will be reviewed by an advisory group:

"Individual management plans required by s. 253.034(5), for parcels over 160 acres, shall be developed with input from an advisory group. Members of this advisory group shall include, at a minimum, representatives of the lead land managing agency, co-managing entities, local private property owners, the appropriate soil and water conservation district, a local conservation organization, and a local elected official."

State park management plans are reviewed by advisory groups that are composed in compliance with these requirements. Additional members may be appointed to the groups, such as a representative of the park's Citizen Support Organization (if one exists), representatives of the recreational activities that exist in or are planned for the park or representatives of any agency with an ownership interest in the property. Additional members may be appointed if special issues or conditions exist that require a broader representation for adequate review of the management plan. The Division's intent in making these appointments is to create a group that represents a balanced cross-section of the park's stakeholders. Decisions on appointments are made on a case-by-case basis by the Division.

Addendum 3—References Cited

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Addendum 4—Soil Descriptions

(8) Delray fine sand, depressional - This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is in depressions on flatwoods in Sarasota County. Individual areas are oval, irregularly shaped, or elongated and range from 5 to 200 acres in size. Slopes are concave and are less than 2 percent.

Typically, the surface layer is black fine sand about 30 inches thick. The subsurface layer is light brownish gray fine sand to a depth of about 54 inches. The subsoil to a depth of 80 inches or more is olive gray fine sandy loam.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas to Astor, Felda, Gator, and Pompano soils. Also included are soils that are similar to the Delray soil but have a thin surface layer of muck. Included soils make up less than 20 percent of the map unit.

Under natural conditions, the Delray soil is ponded for 6 to 9 months or more each year. For much of the remainder of most years, the seasonal high water table is within a depth of 12 inches. Permeability is rapid in the surface layer and subsurface layer and moderate or moderately rapid in the subsoil. The available water capacity is moderate. Natural fertility is medium, and the organic matter content is moderate or high.

Most areas of this soil support natural vegetation of cypress, pickerelweed, maidencane, arrowhead, cutgrass, sand cordgrass, sedges, ferns, and other water-tolerant grasses. They provide excellent habitat for wading birds and other wetland wildlife.

(10) EauGallie and Myakka fine sands - These nearly level, poorly drained soils are on broad flatwoods. Individual areas are long and broad or are irregular in shape and range from 20 to more than 700 acres in size. Slopes are smooth and range from 0 to 2 percent.

The components of this map unit do not occur in a regular and repeating pattern. Some areas are entirely EauGallie and similar soils, and some are made up of EauGallie, Myakka, and other soils. The EauGallie and similar soils make up about 45 percent of the map unit, and the Myakka and similar soils make up about 40 percent.

Typically, the surface layer of the EauGallie soil is black fine sand. The subsurface layer is gray fine sand to a depth of about 22 inches. The subsoil extends to a depth of about 66 inches. The upper 22 inches is fine sand coated with organic matter. It is dark reddish brown grading to dark brown. The next 4 inches is light gray fine sand. The lower 18 inches is grayish brown sandy loam. The substratum to a depth of about 80 inches or more is gray fine sandy loam.

Typically, the surface layer of the Myakka soil is dark grayish brown fine sand about 6 inches thick. The subsurface layer is light gray fine sand about 18 inches thick. The subsoil to a depth of 60 inches is fine sand. The upper 11 inches is very dark grayish

brown, the next 7 inches is very dark gray, and the lower 18 inches is light yellowish brown. The substratum to a depth of 80 inches or more is pale brown fine sand.

Included with these soils in mapping are areas of Ona, Smyrna, and Wabasso soils. Also included are small areas of soils that are similar to the EauGallie and Myakka soils but have subsoil that is low in content of organic matter and is less the 12 inches thick. Included soils make up 10 to 15 percent of the map unit.

Under natural conditions, the EauGallie and Myakka soils have a seasonal high water table at a depth of 6 to 18 inches for 1 to 3 months and within a depth of 40 inches for 2 to 6 months. The water table recedes to a depth of more than 40 inches during extended dry periods. The available water capacity is low in both soils. Natural fertility also is low. Permeability is rapid in the sandy surface layer, subsurface layer, and substratum. It is moderate or moderately rapid in the sandy subsoil of both soils and slow or moderately slow in the loamy part of the EauGallie soil.

Most areas of these soils support natural vegetation. Some areas have been cleared and planted to citrus trees. The natural vegetation is slash pine, South Florida slash pine, longleaf pine, and scattered cabbage palm and oak. The understory includes inkberry, saw palmetto, chalky bluestem, creeping bluestem, pineland threeawn, and various other grasses.

(13) Felda and Pompano fine sand, frequently flooded - These nearly level, poorly drained soils are on flood plains throughout the county. They are frequently flooded following prolonged, heavy rains. Individual areas are elongated and range from 10 to more than 100 acres in size. Slopes are smooth or concave and range from 0 to 2 percent.

The components of this map unit do not occur in a regular and repeating pattern. Some areas are entirely Felda and similar soils, some are entirely Pompano and similar soils, and some are made up of Felda, Pompano, and other soils. The Felda and similar soils make up about 45 percent of the map unit, and the Pompano and similar soils make up about 35 percent.

Typically, the surface layer of the Felda soil is very dark gray fine sand about 4 inches thick. The subsurface layer is dark grayish brown fine sand to a depth of about 24 inches. The subsoil to a depth of 65 inches is sandy clay loam. The upper 24 inches is dark grayish brown, and the lower 17 inches is grayish brown. The substratum to a depth of about 80 inches is light gray loamy sand.

Typically, the surface layer of the Pompano soil is black fine sand about 3 inches thick. The underlying material to a depth of about 80 inches is gray, light brownish gray and grayish brown fine sand.

Included with these soils in mapping are areas of Astor, Bradenton, Delray, and Holopaw soils. Also included are a few areas of soils that are similar to the Felda soil but have an organic surface layer as much as 15 inches thick. Included soils make up about 20 percent of the map unit.

The Felda and Pompano soils have a seasonal high water within 12 inches of the surface for 2 to 6 months in most years. These soils usually are flooded every year and more than once in most years. The duration and extent of flooding vary, depending on the intensity and frequency of rainfall. Permeability is rapid or very rapid in the loamy layers. The available water capacity is low. Natural fertility also is low.

Most areas of these soils support natural vegetation of baldcypress, laurel oak, water oak, pond pine, slash pine, South Florida slash pine, longleaf pine, and cabbage palm. The understory vegetation is waxmyrtle, pineland threeawn, maidencane, greenbrier, poison ivy, and other water-tolerant grasses and plants.

(15) Floridana and Gator soils, depressional - These very poorly drained, nearly level soils are in depressions. They are subject to ponding. Individual areas are oval or irregular in shape and range from 5 to about 100 acres in size. Slopes are dominantly concave and are less than 2 percent.

The components of this map unit do not occur in a regular and repeating pattern. Some areas are entirely Floridana and similar soils, some are entirely Gator and similar soils, and some are made up of Floridana, Gator, and other soils. The Floridana and similar soils make up about 75 percent of the map unit, and the Gator and similar soils make up about 25 percent.

Typically, the surface layer of the Floridana soil is about 14 inches of black mucky fine sand and fine sand. The subsurface layer to a depth of about 22 inches is gray and light gray fine sand. The subsoil to a depth of about 52 inches is grayish brown sandy clay loam. The substratum to a depth of 80 inches or more is grayish brown sandy loam.

Typically, the surface layer of the Gator soil is very dark brown muck about 22 inches thick. The upper 4 inches of the underlying material is very dark gray loamy sand, the next 34 inches is dark gray sandy clay loam, and the lower part to a depth of 80 inches is greenish gray sand.

The Floridana and Gator soils are ponded for 6 to 9 months during most years. The water table is within 12 inches of the surface for much of the remainder of the year. Permeability is rapid in the surface layer and subsurface layer and moderately slow or very slow in the loamy subsoil and underlying material. The available water capacity is dominantly moderate to high. Natural fertility is medium.

Most areas of these soils support natural vegetation of sand cordgrass, maidencane, St. Johnswort, scattered waxmyrtle, and other water-tolerant weeds and grasses. They provide excellent habitat for wading birds and other wetland wildlife.

(22) Holopaw fine sand, depressional - This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is in depressions. Individual areas range from 4 to 50 acres in size. Slopes are concave and are less than 2 percent.

Typically, the surface layer is dark gray fine sand about 4 inches thick. The subsurface layer is light gray and grayish brown sand to a depth of about 50 inches. The subsoil to a depth of 66 inches is grayish brown sandy loam that has pockets of brown fine sand. The substratum to a depth of 80 inches or more is olive gray loamy fine sand that has pockets of brown fine sand.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of Floridana, Manatee, Malabar, and Pineda soils. Also included are soils that are similar to the Holopaw soil but have a surface layer of muck or mucky fine sand less than 15 inches thick. Included soils make up less than 20 percent of the map unit.

The Holopaw soil is ponded for 6 to 9 months or more each year. The water table is within 12 inches of the surface for 2 to 4 months of the year and at a depth of 12 to 40 inches during most of the remainder of the year. Permeability is rapid in the surface layer and subsurface layer and moderately slow or moderate in the subsoil. The available water capacity is low. Natural fertility and the organic matter also are low.

The natural vegetation is blue maidencane, broomsedge, St. Johnswort, waxmyrtle, panicum, sand cordgrass, white bracted sedge, pipewort, stiff paspalum, and various other water-tolerant weeds and grasses. Areas of this soil provides excellent habitat for wading birds and other wetland wildlife.

(24) Kesson and Wulfert mucks, frequently flooded - These nearly level, very poorly drained soils are in tidal marshes and tidal swamps adjacent to coastal islands and estuaries. Individual areas are irregular in shape and range from about 2 to 90 acres in size. Slopes are smooth and are less than 1 percent.

The components of this map unit do not occur in a regular and repeating pattern. Some areas are entirely Kesson and similar soils, some are entirely Wulfert and similar soils, and some are made up of Kesson, Wulfert, and other soils. The Kesson and similar soils make up about 50 percent of the map unit, and the Wulfert and similar soils make up about 40 percent.

Typically, the surface layer of the Kesson soil is dark reddish brown muck about 7

inches thick. The underlying material to a depth of more than 80 inches is gray, grayish brown, and dark greenish gray fine sand. Shell fragments are common in the underlying material.

Typically, the upper 38 inches of the Wulfert soil is black muck. The underlying material to a depth of more than 80 inches is dark gray and grayish brown fine sand.

Included with these soils in mapping are small areas of Beaches and St. Augustine soils. Also included are soils that are similar to the Kesson soil but have an organic surface layer 8 to 15 inches thick. Included soils make up less than 10 percent of the map unit.

Under natural conditions, the Kesson and Wulfert soils are flooded during normal high tides. Permeability is moderately rapid or rapid. The available water capacity and natural fertility are high for saltwater-tolerant plants. The organic matter content is very high.

The native vegetation is red, black, and white mangroves. Searocket, saltwort, perennial glasswort, seashore saltgrass, and seashore paspalum grow in some areas.

(29) Orsino fine sand - this nearly level and gently sloping, moderately well drained soil is on ridges and knolls. It is slightly higher on the landscape than the surrounding flatwoods. Individual areas range from 40 to 100 acres in size. Slopes are smooth or convex.

Typically, the surface layer is gray fine sand about 6 inches thick. The subsurface layer is light gray fine sand to a depth of about 18 inches. The subsoil to a depth of 22 inches is dark reddish brown and brown fine sand that has discontinuous lenses of brown and reddish brown fine sand to a depth of 40 inches. Below this to a depth of 80 inches is light gray fine sand.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of EauGallie, Pomello, and Myakka soils. These soils make up less than 15 percent of the map unit.

Under natural conditions, the Orsino soil has a water table at a depth of 40 to 60 inches for 6 months or more during most years. The water table recedes to a depth of more than 60 inches during droughty periods. Permeability is very rapid. The available water capacity is very low. Natural fertility and the organic matter content also are very low.

Most areas of this soil support natural vegetation of slash pine, South Florida slash pine, sand pine, longleaf pine, scattered turkey oak and sand live oak. The understory is pineland threeawn, indiangrass, bluestems, grassleaf goldaster, and various other grasses and forbs.

(31) Pineda fine sand - This nearly level, poorly drained soil is on low hammocks and in broad, poorly defined sloughs. Individual areas range from 10 to 200 acres in size. Slopes are smooth or concave and range from 0 to 2 percent.

Typically, the surface layer is dark gray fine sand about 8 inches thick. The subsurface layer is 14 inches of gray fine sand. The upper 14 inches of the subsoil is dark yellowish brown and pale brown fine sand. The lower 12 inches is light brownish gray fine sandy loam mottled with dark yellowish brown. The substratum to a depth of 80 inches or more is grayish brown and dark grayish brown fine sand.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of EauGallie, Felda, Malabar, and Pople soils. Also included are a few areas of soils that have a thin layer of very friable, calcareous material at a depth of 10 to 30 inches. Included soils make up less than 20 percent of the map unit.

The Pineda soil has a water table that is above the surface for a short period after heavy rainfall. The water table is within 12 inches of the surface for 1 to 6 months and at a depth of 20 to 40 inches for more than 6 months. The available water capacity is low. Permeability is rapid in the surface layer and subsurface layer and in the upper part of the subsoil, slow or very slow in the lower part of the subsoil, and moderately rapid in the substratum. Natural fertility and the organic matter content are low.

A large part of the acreage of this soil has been cleared and supports citrus trees. The natural vegetation is scattered slash pine, South Florida slash pine, longleaf pine, cabbage palm, waxmyrtle, scattered saw palmetto, blue maidencane, pineland threeawn, low panicum, bluestems, and various weeds and grasses.

(32) Pits and Dumps - This map unit consists of excavated areas where limestone and phosphate have been mined. The refuse from mining activities has been left on the adjoining land. Several areas are in the northern part of the county. Most areas have been abandoned.

Excavations made to obtain marl, shells, clay, or other material for road construction or fill and the waste material from these excavations are part of this unit.

(33) Pomello fine sand - This nearly level, moderately well drained soil is on low ridges and knolls on flatwoods. Individual areas range from 20 to 150 acres in size. Slopes are smooth or convex.

Typically, the surface layer is dark gray fine sand about 4 inches thick. The subsurface layer to a depth of about 48 inches is light gray fine sand. The subsoil to a depth of about 80 inches or more is dark reddish brown fine sand.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of EauGallie and Tavares soils and areas of soils that are similar to the Pomello soil but have a thin, brownish yellow layer directly below the surface layer. Also included are areas of soils that have subsoil below a depth of 50 inches and areas of soil that have weakly cemented subsoil. Included soils make up less than 15 percent of the map unit.

Under natural conditions, the Pomello soil usually has a water table at a depth of 24 to 40 inches for 1 to 4 months during wet periods and at a depth of 40 to 60 inches during the drier periods. Permeability is very rapid in the surface layer and subsurface layer and moderately rapid in the subsoil. The available water capacity is low. Natural fertility and the organic matter content are very low.

Most areas of this soil support natural vegetation of slash pine, South Florida slash pine, longleaf pine, scrub live oak, saw palmetto, fetterbush, rusty lyonia, running oak, indiangrass, pineland threeawn, grassleaf goldaster, flag pawpaw, mosses, lichens, panicum, bluestems, and various other grasses. Sands pine grows in some areas.

(39) St. Augustine fine sand. These nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soils formed in dredge and fill material from small manmade harbors. The material was spread over the surface of former tidal areas. The mineral soils in these areas are very poorly drained. The fill material is a mixture of sand, shell fragments, and loamy and silty sediments. Individual areas are adjacent to the coastal areas and are about 10 to 100 acres in size. Slopes are smooth and range from 0 to 2 percent. Typically, the fill material is about 80 inches thick. It is brownish and grayish fine sand and sandy clay loam with sand-sized shell fragments.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of Matlacha soils and areas of fill material that does not have loamy pockets or layers. Also included are some areas of soils that have a thin or weakly expressed organic layer at a depth of more than 60 inches and some areas of soils that are poorly drained. Included soils make up less than 15 percent of the map unit.

The St. Augustine soil has a water table at a depth of 20 to 40 inches for 2 to 6 months in most years. The water table is within a depth of 20 inches during periods of heavy rainfall. In some areas daily tides affect the water table. This soil is flooded for brief periods during the hurricane season. Permeability is rapid or moderately rapid. The available water capacity is very low in the sandy part of the fill material.

Most of the acreage supports stands of Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, sea daisy, and weedy grasses. Some areas have been developed for urban uses.

This soil is not used for cropland, improved pasture, citrus trees, woodland, wildlife

habitat, or rangeland. It consists of mixed soil material used as fill to make low tidal areas better suited to building site development or other urban uses. The suitability for urban uses is fair. The wetness and the flooding are limitations. Onsite investigation is recommended for all uses. The capability subclass is VIIs.

Addendum 5—Plant And Animal List

Oscar Scherer State Park Plants

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)

PTERIDOPHYTES

Giant leather fern	*Acrostichum danaeifolium*	
Toothed mid-sorus fern; Swamp fern	*Blechnum serrulatum*	
Cinnamon fern	*Osmunda cinnamomea*	8, 9, 31
Royal fern	*Osmunda regalis* var. *spectabilis*	8, 9, 31
Golden polypody; Serpent fern	*Phlebodium aureum*	
Resurrection fern	*Pleopeltis polypodioides* var. *michauxiana*	
Bracken fern	*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *caudatum*	
Widespread maiden fern	*Thelypteris kunthii*	
Eastern marsh fern	*Thelypteris palustris* var. *pubescens*	
Shoestring fern	*Vittaria lineata*	
Netted chain fern	*Woodwardia areolata*	
Virginia chain fern	*Woodwardia virginica*	

CONIFERS/CYCADS

Slash pine	*Pinus elliottii*	
Longleaf pine	*Pinus palustris*	
Florida arrowroot; Coontie	*Zamia pumila*	8, 9, 16

MONOCOTS

Tickle grass; Winter bent grass	*Agrostis hyemalis*	
Yellow colic-root	*Aletris lutea*	
Blue maidencane	*Amphicarpum muhlenbergianum*	
Bushy bluestem	*Andropogon glomeratus*	
Bushy bluestem	*Andropogon glomeratus* var. *pumilus*	
Splitbeard bluestem; Silver bluestem	*Andropogon ternarius*	
Broomsedge	*Andropogon virginicus*	
Chalky bluestem	*Andropogon virginicus* var. *glaucus*	
Wire grass; Pineland threeawn	*Aristida beyrichiana*	
Corkscrew threeawn	*Aristida gyrans*	
Tall threeawn	*Aristida patula*	
Hillsborough threeawn	*Aristida purpurascens* var. *tenuispica*	
Bottlebrush threeawn	*Aristida spiciformis*	
Common carpetgrass	*Axonopus fissifolius*	
Big carpetgrass	*Axonopus furcatus*	
Capillary hair sedge	*Bulbostylis ciliatifolia*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Sandyfield hairsedge	*Bulbostylis stenophylla*	
Ware's hair sedge	*Bulbostylis warei*	
Grassleaf roseling	*Callisia graminae*	
Florida scrub roseling	*Callisia ornata*	
Many-flower grass-pink	*Calopogon multiflorus*	8
Bandana-of-the-Everglades	*Canna flaccida*	
Slender sandspur	*Cenchrus gracillimus*	
Coast sandspur	*Cenchrus incertus*	
Sandspur	*Cenchrus myosuroides*	
Jamaican sawgrass	*Cladium jamaicense*	
Baby dewflower; Dayflower*	*Commelina diffusa*	
Erect dayflower	*Commelina erecta*	
European bermuda grass*	*Cynodon dactylon*	
Marshland flat sedge	*Cyperus distinctus*	
Sheathed flat sedge	*Cyperus haspan*	
Leconte's flat sedge	*Cyperus lecontei*	
Alabama swamp flat sedge	*Cyperus ligularis*	
Rusty flat sedge	*Cyperus odoratus*	
Many-spike flat sedge	*Cyperus polystachyos*	
Pine-barren flat sedge	*Cyperus retrorsus*	
Straw-color flat sedge	*Cyperus strigosus*	
Tropical flat sedge	*Cyperus surinamensis*	
Durban crowfoot grass*	*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*	
Cypress witch grass	*Dichanthelium ensifolium* var. *ensifolium*	
Cypress witch grass	*Dichanthelium ensifolium* var. *unciphyllum*	
Hemlock witch grass	*Dichanthelium portoricense*	
Southern crab grass	*Digitaria ciliaris*	
Slender crab grass	*Digitaria filiformis*	
India crab grass	*Digitaria longiflora*	
Coast cockspur	*Echinochloa walteri*	
Common water-hyacinth*	*Eichhornia crassipes*	
Baldwin's spikerush; Roadgrass	*Eleocharis baldwinii*	
Goose grass*	*Eleusine indica*	
Tampa butterfly orchid	*Encyclia tampensis*	9
Gophertail love grass	*Eragrostis ciliaris*	
Purple love grass; Petticoat-climber	*Eragrostis spectabilis*	
Coastal love grass	*Eragrostis virginica*	
Flattened pipewort	*Eriocaulon compressum*	
Ten-angle pipewort; Giant pipewort	*Eriocaulon decangulare*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Flattened pipewort	*Eriocaulon compressum*	
Ten-angle pipewort; Giant pipewort	*Eriocaulon decangulare*	
Wild coco; Ground coco	*Eulophia alta*	8
Saltmarsh finger grass	*Eustachys glauca*	
Pinewoods finger grass	*Eustachys petraea*	
Hurricanegrass*	*Fimbristylis cymosa*	
Hairy fimbry	*Fimbristylis puberula*	
Marsh fimbry	*Fimbristylis spadicea*	
Dwarf umbrellasedge	*Fuirena pumila*	
Southern umbrella sedge	*Fuirena scirpoidea*	
Tooth-petal false rein orchid	*Habenaria floribunda*	
Long-horn false rein orchid	*Habenaria quinqueseta*	
Water-spider false rein orchid	*Habenaria repens*	
Hydrilla; Waterthyme*	*Hydrilla verticillata*	
Alligator-lily	*Hymenocallis palmeri*	
Fringed yellowstar-grass	*Hypoxis juncea*	
Cogon grass*	*Imperata cylindrica*	
Grass-leaf rush; Shore rush	*Juncus marginatus*	
Needle rush; Black rush	*Juncus roemerianus*	
Needle-pod rush	*Juncus scirpoides*	
Bloodroot; Carolina redroot	*Lachnanthes caroliniana*	
White-head bog-buttons	*Lachnocaulon anceps*	
Dotted duckweed	*Landoltia punctata*	
Pine lily; Catesby's lily	*Lilium catesbaei*	8
Lesser duckweed	*Lemna aequinoctialis*	
Hair grass; Hair-awn muhly; Purple muhly	*Muhlenbergia capillaris*	
American white waterlilly	*Nymphaea odorata*	
Big floating hearts	*Nymphoides aquatica*	
Woodsgrass	*Oplismenus hirtellus*	
Beaked panicum	*Panicum anceps*	
Maidencane	*Panicum hemitomon*	
Gaping panicum	*Panicum hians*	
Guinea grass*	*Panicum maximum*	
Torpedograss*	*Panicum repens*	
Redtop panicum	*Panicum rigidulum*	
Switch grass; Wand-shape panicum	*Panicum virgatum*	
Sour paspalum	*Paspalum conjugatum*	
Bahia grass*	*Paspalum notatum* var. *saurae*	
Thin paspalum;		

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Slender crown grass	*Paspalum setaceum*	
Vasey grass*	*Paspalum urvillei*	
Florida needlegrass	*Piptochaetium avenacioides*	
Pickerelweed	*Pontederia cordata*	
Giant orchid; Wild coco	*Pteroglossapsis ecristata*	8
Red Natal grass*	*Rhynchelytrum repens*	
White-tops; Star-rush	*Rhynchospora colorata*	
Fasciculate beak sedge	*Rhynchospora fascicularis*	
Pine-barren beak sedge	*Rhynchospora intermedia*	
Sand-swamp whitetop; Star-rush	*Rhynchospora latifolia*	
Southern beak sedge	*Rhynchospora microcarpa*	
Short-beak bald sedge	*Rhynchospora nitens*	
Plumed beak sedge	*Rhynchospora plumose*	
Cabbage palm	*Sabal palmetto*	
Sugarcane plume grass	*Saccharum giganteum*	
American cupscale	*Sacciolepis striata*	
Grass-leaf arrowhead	*Sagittaria graminea*	
Bull-tongue arrowhead	*Sagittaria lancifolia*	
Little false bluestem	*Schizachyrium scoparium*	
Raynal's bulrush	*Scirpus erectus*	
Soft-stem bulrush	*Scirpus tabernaemontani*	
Few-flower nutrush	*Scleria ciliata* var. *pauciflora*	
Tall nutgrass; Whip nutrush	*Scleria triglomerata*	
Saw palmetto	*Serenoa repens*	
Coastal foxtail	*Setaria corrugata*	
Giant bristle grass	*Setaria magna*	
Knotroot foxtail; Knotroot bristle grass	*Setaria parviflora*	
Narrow-leaf blue-eyed-grass	*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*	
Ear-leaf greenbrier;	*Smilax auriculata*	
Saw greenbrier; Saw catbrier	*Smilax bona-nox*	
Glaucous-leaf greenbrier	*Smilax glauca*	
Sarsaparilla vine; Wooly greenbrier	*Smilax pumila*	
Bristly greenbrier	*Smilax tamnoides*	
Slender Indian grass	*Sorghastrum elliottii*	
Yellow Indian grass	*Sorghastrum nutans*	
Lopsided Indian grass	*Sorghastrum secundum*	
Saltmarsh cord grass; Smooth cord grass	*Spartina alterniflora*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Sand cord grass; Bunch cord grass	*Spartina bakeri*	
Gulf cordgrass	*Spartina spartinae*	
Greenvein ladies'-tresses	*Spiranthes praecox*	
Spring ladies'-tresses	*Spiranthes vernalis*	
Coral dropseed	*Sporobolus domingensis*	
Smut grass*	*Sporobolus indicus* var. *pyramidalis*	
Pineywoods dropseed	*Sporobolus junceus*	
St. Augustine grass*	*Stenotaphrum secundatum*	
Bantam-buttons; Yellow hatpins	*Syngonanthus flavidulus*	
Medusahead airplant	*Tillandsia balbisiana*	9
Giant air plant	*Tillandsia fasciculata* var. *densispica*	9
Small ball-moss	*Tillandsia recurvata*	
Southern needleleaf air plant	*Tillandsia setacea*	
Spanish-moss	*Tillandsia usneoides*	
Spreading air plant	*Tillandsia utriculata*	*8*, 9, 16
Spiderwort; Bluejacket	*Tradescantia ohiensis*	
Tall redtop; Purpletop	*Tridens flavus*	
Eastern gama grass; Eastern mock grama	*Tripsacum dactyloides*	
Southern cattail	*Typha domingensis*	
Common cattail; Broad-leaf cattail	*Typha latifolia*	
Para grass*	*Urochloa mutica*	
Short-leaf yelloweyed-grass	*Xyris brevifolia*	
Carolina yelloweyed-grass	*Xyris caroliniana*	
Elliott's yelloweyed-grass	*Xyris elliottii*	
Richard's yelloweyed-grass*	*Xyris jupicai*	
Spanish dagger; Spanish bayonet	*Yucca aloifolia*	
Adam's needle	*Yucca filimentosa*	
Lawn orchid; Soldier's orchid*	*Zeuxine strateumatica*	

DICOTS

Rosary pea; Crab's-eye*	*Abrus precatorius*	
Three-seeded mercury	*Acalypha gracilens*	
Southern red maple	*Acer rubrum*	
Large purple false foxglove	*Agalinis fasciculata*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Seminole false foxglove	*Agalinis filifolia*	
Flax-leaf false foxglove	*Agalinis linifolia*	
Hammock thoroughwort	*Ageratina jucunda*	
Brazilian joyweed*	*Alternanthera brasiliana*	
False moneywort*	*Alysicarpus ovalifolius*	
Common ragweed; Annual ragweed	*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*	
Bastard indigo; False indigo-bush	*Amorpha fruticosa*	
Clusterspike false indigo-bush	*Amorpha herbacea*	
Pepper vine	*Ampelopsis arborea*	
Groundnut	*Apios Americana*	
Coralberry*	*Ardisia crenata*	
Florida Indian-plantain	*Arnoglossum floridanum*	
Indian-plantain	*Arnoglossum reniformis*	
Scarlet milkweed*	*Asclepias curassavica*	
Florida milkweed	*Asclepias feayi*	
Pinewoods milkweed	*Asclepias humistrata*	
Long-leaf milkweed	*Asclepias longifolia*	
Savannah milkweed	*Asclepias pedicellata*	
Aquatic milkweed	*Asclepias perennis*	
Velvetleaf milkweed	*Asclepias tomentosa*	
Butterfly weed	*Asclepias tuberosa*	
Netted pawpaw	*Asimina reticulata*	
Black mangrove	*Avicennia germinans*	
Saltwater false-willow	*Baccharis angustifolia*	
Groundsel tree; Silverling	*Baccharis glomeruliflora*	
Groundsel tree; Sea-myrtle; Saltbush	*Baccharis halimifolia*	
Coastal water-hyssop	*Bacopa monnieri*	
Coastal plain honeycomb-head	*Balduina angustifolia*	
Tarflower	*Bejaria racemosa*	
Florida greeneyes; Florida-dandelion	*Berlandiera subacaulis*	
Beggar-ticks	*Bidens alba* var. *radiata*	
Pineland rayless-goldenrod	*Bigelowia nudata* subsp. *australis*	
Bishopwood*	*Bischofia javanica*	
Green shrimp plant*	*Blechum pyramidatum*	
Samphire; Silverhead	*Blutaparon vermiculare*	
Small-spike false nettle; Bog hemp	*Boehmeria cylindrica*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Red spiderling; Wine-flower	*Boerhavia diffusa*	
False aster; Small-head doll's daisy	*Boltonia diffusa*	
Sea daisies; Sea oxeye	*Borrichia frutescens*	
American blueheart	*Buchnera americana*	
American beautyberry	*Callicarpa americana*	
Trumpet-creeper; Trumpet-vine	*Campsis radicans*	
Florida paintbrush; Deer-tongue	*Carphephorus corymbosus*	
Vanilla plant; Vanilla-leaf	*Carphephorus odoratissimus*	
False vanilla-leaf	*Carphephorous odoratissimus* var. *subtropicanus*	
Hairy chaffhead	*Carphephorus paniculatus*	
Pignut hickory	*Carya glabra*	
Love vine; Devil's-gut	*Cassytha filiformis*	
Madagascar periwinkle; Oldmaid*	*Catharanthus roseus*	
Sugarberry	*Celtis laevigata*	
Spurred butterfly pea	*Centrosema virginianum*	
Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*	
Partridge pea; Sleeping plant	*Chamaecrista fasciculata*	
Partridge pea; Wild sensitive plant	*Chamaecrista nictitans* var. *aspera*	
Hairy spurge; Pill-pod sandmat	*Chamaesyce hirta*	
Eyebane; Hyssop-leaf sandmat	*Chamaesyce hyssopifolia*	
Milk purslane; Spotted sandmat	*Chamaesyce maculata*	
Florida alicia; Chapman's pea	*Chapmannia floridana*	
Pineland daisy; Wooly sunbonnets	*Chaptalia tomentosa*	
Mexican-tea	*Chenopodium ambrosioides*	
Snowberry	*Chiococca alba*	
Coastal plain goldenaster	*Chrysopsis scabrella*	
Purple thistle; Yellow thistle	*Cirsium horridulum*	
Nuttall's thistle	*Cirsium nuttallii*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Sour orange*	*Citrus aurantium*	
Grapefruit*	*Citrus X paradisi*	
Pine-hyacinth	*Clematis baldwinii*	
Atlantic pigeonwings	*Clitoria mariana*	
Tread-softly; Finger-rot	*Cnidoscolus stimulosus*	
Buttonwood; Button-mangrove	*Conocarpus erectus*	
Blue mistflower	*Conoclinium coelestinum*	
Dwarf horseweed	*Conyza canadensis* var. *pusilla*	
Spring coralroot; Wister's coralroot	*Corallorhiza wisteriana*	
Coastal plain tickseed	*Coreopsis gladiata*	
Leavenworth's tickseed;	*Coreopsis leavenworthii*	
Stiff cornel; Swamp dogwood	*Cornus foemina*	
Smooth rattlebox*	*Crotalaria pallida* var. *obovata*	
Rabbit-bells	*Crotalaria rotundifolia*	
Showy rattlebox*	*Crotalaria spectabilis*	
Narrow-leaf rushfoil	*Croton michauxii*	
Carrotwood*	*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*	
Little ironweed	*Cyanthillium cinereum*	
Whitetassels	*Dalea carnea*	
Western tansymustard	*Descurainia pinnata*	
Hoary ticktrefoil	*Desmodium canescens*	
Florida tick-trefoil	*Desmodium floridanum*	
Zarzabacoa comun*	*Desmodium incanum*	
Naked flower ticktrefoil	*Desmodium nudiflorum*	
Dixie ticktrefoil*	*Desmodium tortuosum*	
Three-flower ticktrefoil*	*Desmodium triflorum*	
Tick-trefoil	*Desmodium viridiflorum*	
Carolina ponysfoot	*Dichondra caroliniensis.*	
Poor Joe; Rough buttonweed	*Diodia teres*	
Virginia buttonweed	*Diodia virginiana*	
Persimmon	*Diospyros virginiana*	
Pink sundew	*Drosera capillaris*	
Oblong-leaf snakeherb; Twinflower	*Dyschoriste oblongifolia*	
Florida elephant's-foot	*Elephantopus elatus*	
Florida tasselflower*	*Emilia fosbergii*	
Earpod tree; Pacara*	*Enterolobium contortisiliquum*	
Fireweed;		

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
American burn; Pilewort	*Erechtites hieracifolia*	
Daisy fleabane	*Erigeron philadelphicus*	
Oakleaf fleabane	*Erigeron quercifolius*	
Daisy fleabane; Prairie fleabane	*Erigeron strigosus*	
Early white-top fleabane	*Erigeron vernus*	
Button snakeroot; Rattlesnake-master	*Eryngium yuccifolium*	
Southeastern coral bean; Cherokee bean	*Erythrina herbacea*	
White stopper	*Eugenia axillaris*	
Dogfennel	*Eupatorium capillifolium*	
Joe-pye-weed	*Eupatorium fistulosum*	
False fennel	*Eupatorium leptophyllum*	
Semaphore thoroughwort	*Eupatorium mikanioides*	
Mohr's thoroughwort	*Eupatorium mohrii*	
Round-leaf thoroughwort	*Eupatorium rotundifolium*	
Late-flowering thoroughwort	*Eupatorium serotinum*	
Lesser Florida spurge	*Euphorbia polyphylla*	
Flat-topped goldenrod	*Euthamia caroliniana*	
Silver dwarf morning glory	*Evolvulus sericeus*	
Narrow-leaf yellowtops	*Flaveria linearis*	
Elliott's milk pea	*Galactia elliottii*	
Eastern milk pea; Florida milk pea	*Galactia regularis*	
Downy milk pea	*Galactia volubilis*	
Narrowleaf purple everlasting	*Gamochaeta falcata*	
Southern beeblossom; Southern gaura	*Gaura angustifolia*	
Dwarf huckleberry	*Gaylussacia dumosa*	
Blue huckleberry	*Gaylussacia frondosa* var. *tomentosa*	
Yellow jessamine; Carolina jessamine	*Gelsemium sempervirens*	
Wild geranium; Carolina cranesbill	*Geranium carolinianum*	
Coastal mock vervain	*Glandularia maritima*	8
Tampa mock vervain	*Glandularia tampensis*	9
Globe amaranth; Arrasa con todo*	*Gomphrena serrata*	
Rough hedge-hyssop	*Gratiola hispida*	
Branched hedge-hyssop	*Gratiola ramosa*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Spanish daisy; Bitterweed; Yellowdicks	*Helenium amarum*	
Southeastern sneezeweed	*Helenium pinnatifidum*	
Pine-barren rock-rose	*Helianthemum corymbosum*	
Southeastern sunflower	*Helianthus agrestis*	
Narrow-leaved sunflower	*Helianthus angustifolius*	
Hairy beach sunflower	*Helianthus debilis* subsp. *vestitus*	8
Pineland heliotrope	*Heliotropium polyphyllum*	
Sweet tanglehead	*Heteropogon melanocarpus*	
Camphorweed	*Heterotheca subaxillaris*	
African rosemallow*	*Hibiscus acetosella*	
Hawkweed; Queendevil	*Hieracium gronovii*	
Coastal plain hawkweed	*Hieracium megacephalon*	
Round-leaf bluet	*Houstonia procumbens*	
Many-flower marsh pennywort	*Hydrocotyle umbellata*	
Skyflower	*Hydrolea corymbosa*	
Round-pod St. John's-wort	*Hypericum cistifolium*	
Peel-bark St. John's-wort; Sandweed	*Hypericum fasciculatum*	
Pineweeds; Orange-grass	*Hypericum gentianoides*	
St. Andrew's-cross	*Hypericum hypericoides*	
Atlantic St. John's-wort	*Hypericum reductum*	
Four-petal St. John's-wort	*Hypericum tetrapetalum*	
Musky mint; Cluster bush mint	*Hyptis alata*	
Tropical bush mint; Bitter mint*	*Hyptis mutabilis*	
Carolina holly; Sand holly	*Ilex ambigua*	
Dahoon holly	*Ilex cassine*	
Inkberry; Gallberry	*Ilex glabra*	
Carolina indigo	*Indigofera caroliniana*	
Rough hairy indigo*	*Indigofera hirsuta*	
Tievine	*Ipomoea cordatotriloba*	
Trailing indigo*	*Indigofera spicata*	
Glade morning-glory	*Ipomoea sagittata*	
Big-leaf marsh-elder	*Iva frutescens*	
Southern red cedar; Eastern red cedar	*Juniperus virginiana*	
Pineland water-willow	*Justicia angusta*	
Saltmarsh mallow;		

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Virginia fen-rose	*Kosteletzkya virginica*	
Blue lettuce; Grass-leaf lettuce	*Lactuca graminifolia*	
White mangrove	*Laguncularia racemosa*	
Shrub verbena; Hedgeflower*	*Lantana camara*	
Drysand pinweed	*Lechea divaricata*	16
Piedmont pinweed	*Lechea torreyi*	
Poorman's pepper	*Lepidium virginicum*	
Hairy bush clover	*Lespedeza hirta*	
Chapman's blazing star	*Liatris chapmanii*	
Short-leaf gayfeather	*Liatris tenuifolia* var. *quadriflora*	
Gopher-apple	*Licania michauxii*	
Carolina sea-lavender	*Limonium carolinianum*	
Blue toadflax; Oldfield toadflax	*Linaria canadensis*	
Slender blazing-star*	*Lindernia crustaceae*	
Moistbank pimpernel	*Lindernia dubia*	
Savannah false-pimpernel	*Lindernia grandiflora*	
Florida yellowflax	*Linum floridanum*	
Bay lobelia	*Lobelia feayana*	
White lobelia	*Lobelia paludosa*	
Piedmont primrose-willow	*Ludwigia arcuata*	
Seaside primrose-willow	*Ludwigia maritima*	
Mexican primrose-willow	*Ludwigia octovalvis*	
Peruvian primrose-willow*	*Ludwigia peruviana*	
Shrubby primrose-willow	*Ludwigia suffruticosa*	
Sky-blue lupine; Lady lupine	*Lupinus diffusus*	
Christmasberry; Carolina desert-thorn	*Lycium carolinianum*	
Taper-leaf water-hoarhound	*Lycopus rubellus*	
Roserush	*Lygodesmia aphylla*	
Rusty lyonia; Rusty staggerbush	*Lyonia ferruginea*	
Coastal plain staggerbush	*Lyonia fruticosa*	
Maleberry	*Lyonia ligustrina* var. *foliosiflora*	
Fetterbush; Shinyleaf	*Lyonia lucida*	
Wing-angle loosestrife	*Lythrum alatum* var. *lanceolatum*	
Wild bush bean*	*Macroptilium lathyroides*	
Sweet bay	*Magnolia virginiana*	
Axil-flower	*Mecardonia acuminata* var. *peninsularis*	
Black medic	*Medicago lupulina*	
Melaleuca; Punk tree; Cajeput*	*Melaleuca quinquenervia*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Creeping cucumber	*Melothria pendula*	
Florida Keys climbing hempvine	*Mikania cordifolia*	
Climbing hempvine	*Mikania scandens*	
Wild balsam-apple; Balsam-pear*	*Momordica charantia*	
Horse mint; Spotted beebalm	*Monarda punctata*	
Red mulberry	*Morus rubra*	
Southern bayberry; Wax myrtle	*Myrica cerifera*	
Tropical puff	*Neptunia pubescens*	
Pine-barren white-top aster	*Oclemena reticulatus*	
Seaside evening-primrose	*Oenothera humifusa*	
Cut-leaved evening-primrose	*Oenothera laciniata*	
Flat-top bluet*	*Oldenlandia corymbosa*	
Clustered bluet	*Oldenlandia uniflora*	
Prickly-pear cactus; Devil's-tongue	*Opuntia humifusa*	
Erect prickly-pear	*Opuntia stricta*	8, 16
Cinnamon		
Yellow wood sorrel; Lady's sorrel	*Oxalis corniculata*	
Violet wood-sorrel; Pink wood-sorrel*	*Oxalis debilis* var. *corymbosa*	
Water dropwort; Water cowbane	*Oxypolis filiformis*	
Butterweed	*Packera glabella*	
Feay's palafox	*Palafoxia feayi*	
Coastal plain palafox	*Palafoxia integrifolia*	
Florida pellitory-of-the-wall	*Parietaria floridana*	
Virginia creeper; Woodbine	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*	
Florida lemongrass; Florida fetid-marigold	*Pectis linearifolia*	
Spreading lemongrass	*Pectis prostrata*	
Many-flower beard-tongue	*Penstemon multiflorus*	
var. borbonia Red bay	*Persea borbonia*	
Scrub bay; Silk bay	*Persea borbonia* var. *humilis*	
Wild bean; Sandhill bean	*Phaseolus polystachios* var. *sinuatus*	
Florida false sunflower	*Phoebanthus grandiflorus*	
Senegal date palm*	*Phoenix reclinata*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Fog-fruit; Turkey-tange; Capeweed	*Phyla nodiflora*	
Coastal groundcheryy	*Physalis angustifolia*	
Ground-cherry	*Physalis heterophylla*	
Low hairy ground-cherry	*Physalis pubescens*	
Starry-hair ground-cherry	*Physalis walteri*	
Eastern false dragonhead	*Physostegia purpurea*	
Pokeberry; American pokeweed	*Phytolacca americana*	
Artillery plant	*Pilea microphylla*	
Wild pennyroyal	*Piloblephis rigida*	
Yellow butterwort	*Pinguicula lutea*	8, 31
Small butterwort	*Pinguicula pumila*	
Piriqueta; Carolina stripeseed	*Piriqueta cistoides* subsp. *caroliniana*	
Grass-leaved goldenaster	*Pityopsis graminifolia*	
Southern plantain; Pale-seed plantain	*Plantago virginica*	
Sweetscent	*Pluchea odorata*	
Rosy camphorweed	*Pluchea rosea*	
Painted-leaf; Fire-on-the-mountain	*Poinsettia cyathophora*	
Fiddler's spurge; Mexican fireplant	*Poinsettia heterophylla*	
Drumheads	*Polygala cruciata*	
Procession flower	*Polygala incarnata*	
Wild bachelor's button; Dwarf milkwort	*Polygala nana*	
Low pine-barren milkwort	*Polygala ramosa*	
Yellow bachelor's button	*Polygala rugelii*	
Coastal plain milkwort	*Polygala setacea*	
Candyroot; Large-flowered polygala	*Polygala violaceae*	
Wireweed; Hairy jointweed	*Polygonella ciliata*	
Wireweed; Jointweed	*Polygonella polygama* var. *brachystachya*	
Sandhill wireweed; Large-flower jointweed	*Polygonella robusta*	
Dense-flower smartweed	*Polygonum densiflorum*	
Mild water-pepper; Swamp smartweed	*Polygonum hydropiperoides*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Dotted smartweed	*Polygonum punctatum*	
Rustweed; Juniper-leaf	*Polypremum procumbens*	
Pink purslane; Kiss-me-quick	*Portulaca pilosa*	
Marsh mermaid-weed	*Proserpinaca palustris*	
Carolina laurel-cherry	*Prunus caroliniana*	
Sweet everlasting; Rabbit's tobacco	*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*	
Strawberry guava*	*Psidium cattleianum*	
Seminole balsamo; Wild coffee	*Psychotria nervosa*	
Rabbit tobacco; Coastal blackroot	*Pterocaulon pycnostachyum*	
Hairlike mock bishop's-weed	*Ptilimnium capillaceum*	
Chapman's oak	*Quercus chapmanii*	
Sand live oak; Scrub live oak	*Quercus geminata*	
Bluejack oak	*Quercus incana*	
Laurel oak; Diamond oak	*Quercus laurifolia*	
Dwarf live oak	*Quercus minima*	
Myrtle oak	*Quercus myrtifolia*	
Water oak	*Quercus nigra*	
Running oak	*Quercus pumila*	
Virginia live oak	*Quercus virginiana*	
Myrsine; Guiana colicwood	*Rapanea punctata*	
West Indies meadow beauty	*Rhexia cubensis*	
Pale meadow beauty	*Rhexia mariana*	
Red mangrove	*Rhizophora mangle*	
Winged sumac; Shining sumac	*Rhus copallina*	
Michaux's snout bean	*Rhynchosia michauxii*	
Least snout bean	*Rhynchosia minima*	
Tropical Mexican-clover*	*Richardia brasiliensis*	
Largeflower Mexican-clover*	*Richardia grandiflora*	
Rough Mexican-clover*	*Richardia scabra*	
Rouge plant	*Rivina humilis*	
Southern marsh yellowcress	*Rorippa teres*	
Highbush blackberry	*Rubus argutus*	
Sand blackberry	*Rubus cuneifolius*	
Southern dewberry	*Rubus trivialis*	
Blackeyed Susan	*Rudbeckia hirta*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Carolina wild petunia	*Ruellia carolinensis*	
Britton's wild petunia*	*Ruellia tweediana*	
Shortleaf marsh pink	*Sabatia brevifolia*	
Ten-petal rose-gentian	*Sabatia dodecandra*	
Large-flower marsh pink	*Sabatia grandiflora*	
Rose-of-Plymouth	*Sabatia stellaris*	
Carolina willow	*Salix caroliniana*	
Lyre-leaved sage	*Salvia lyrata*	
Southern river sage	*Salvia misella*	
Little-woman	*Salvia serotina*	
Elderberry; American elder	*Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*	
Water pimpernel; Limewater brookweed	*Samolus ebracteatus*	
Chinese tallowtree*	*Sapium sebiferum*	
Brazilian pepper tree; Florida-holly*	*Schinus terebinthifolius*	
Sweet broom; Licorice-weed	*Scoparia dulcis*	
Helmet skullcap	*Scutellaria integrifolia*	
Sicklepod; Coffeeweed*	*Senna obtusifolia*	
White-topped aster; Ragged aster	*Seriocarpus tortifolius*	
Danglepod; Bequilla	*Sesbania herbacea*	
Chinese box orange*	*Severinia buxifolia*	
Broomweed; Common wireweed	*Sida acuta*	
Pantropical fanpetal*	*Sida cordifolia*	
Indian hemp; Arrow-leaf fanpetal	*Sida rhombifolia*	
American black nightshade	*Solanum americanum*	
Black nightshade; Divine nightshade*	*Solanum chenopodioides*	
Two-leaf nightshafe*	*Solanum diphyllum*	
Tropical soda-apple*	*Solanum viarum*	
Pine-barren goldenrod	*Solidago fistulosa*	
Chapman's goldenrod	*Solidago odora* var. *chapmanii*	
Seaside goldenrod	*Solidago sempervirens*	
Wand goldenrod	*Solidago stricta*	
Twist-leaf goldenrod	*Solidago tortifolia*	
Prostrate false buttonweed	*Spermacoce prostrata*	
Woodland false buttonweed	*Spermacoce remota*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Wedelia*	*Sphagneticola trilobata*	
Queen's delight	*Stillingia sylvatica*	
Wireplant; Pineland scaly-pink	*Stipulicida setacea* var. *lacerata*	
American snowbell	*Styrax americanus*	
Scale-leaf aster	*Symphyotrichum adnatum*	
Climbing aster	*Symphyotrichum carolinianum*	
Rice-button aster	*Symphyotrichum dumosum*	
Annual saltmarsh aster	*Symphyotrichum subulatum*	
Perennial saltmarsh aster	*Symphyotrichum tenuifolium*	
Malabar plum*	*Syzygium jambos*	
Florida hoary pea	*Tephrosia florida*	
Spreading hoary pea	*Tephrosia hispidula*	
Spiked hoarypea	*Tephrosia spicata*	
Eastern poison ivy	*Toxicodendron radicans*	
Forked blue-curls; Bastard pennyroyal	*Trichostema dichotomum*	
Yellow alder*	*Turnera ulmifolia*	
Caesar weed*	*Urena lobata*	
Horned bladderwort	*Utricularia cornuta*	
Humped bladderwort	*Utricularia gibba*	
Eastern purple bladderwort	*Utricularia purpurea*	
Zigzag bladderwort; Tiny bladderwort	*Utricularia subulata*	
Tree sparkleberry	*Vaccinium arboreum*	
Darrow's blueberry	*Vaccinium darrowii*	
Shiny blueberry	*Vaccinium myrsinites*	
Deerberry; Gooseberry	*Vaccinium stamineum*	
White vervain;	*Verbena urticifolia*	
Frostweed; White crownbeard	*Verbesina virginica*	
Giant ironweed	*Vernonia gigantea*	
Small-leaf viburnum; Walter's viburnum	*Viburnum obovatum*	
Four-leaf vetch; Sand vetch; Water vetch	*Vicia acutifolia*	
Piedmont cow pea	*Vigna luteola*	
Early blue violet; Southern coastal violet	*Viola palmata*	
Summer grape	*Vitis aestivalis*	
Southern fox grape	*Vitis rotundifolia*	
Calusa grape	*Vitis shuttleworthii*	

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)
Frost grape	*Vitis vulpina*	
Southern rockbell*	*Wahlenbergia marginata*	
Tallowwood; Hog-plum; Spanish-plum	*Ximenia americana*	
Oriental hawk's-beard; Rocketweed*	*Youngia japonica*	
Viperina	*Zornia bracteata*	

*** Non-native Species**

Oscar Scherer State Park Plants

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For Designated Species)

* Non-native Species

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)

FISH

Bonnethead shark	*Sphyrna tiburo*	53
Gar	*Lepisosteus spp.*	53
Bowfin	*Amia calva*	53
Ladyfish	*Elops saurus*	53
Tarpon	*Megalops atlantica*	53
Walking catfish	*Clarias batrachus**	53
Sea catfish	*Arius felis*	53
Lizardfish	*Synodus intermedius*	53
Atlantic needlefish	*Strongylura marina*	53
Bluefin killifish	*Lucania goodei*	53
Striped killifish	*Fundulus majalis*	53
Golden topminnow	*Fundulus chrysotus*	53
Sheepshead minnow	*Cyprinodon variegatus*	53
Flagfish	*Jordanella floridae*	53
Eastern mosquitofish	*Gambusia holbrooki*	53
Least killifish	*Heterandria formosa*	53
Sailfin molly	*Poecilia latipinna*	53
Inland silverside	*Menidia beryllina*	53
Common snook	*Centropomus undecimalis*	53
Everglades pygmy sunfish	*Elassoma evergladei*	53
Warmouth	*Lepomis gulosus*	53
Bluegill	*Lepomis macrochirus*	53
Largemouth bass	*Micropterus salmoides*	53
Swamp darter	*Etheostoma fusiforme*	53
Crevalle jack	*Caranx hippos*	53
Gray snapper	*Lutjanus griseus*	53
Spotfin mojarra	*Eucinostomus argenteus*	53
Pinfish	*Lagodon rhomboides*	53
Sheepshead	*Archosargus probatocephalus*	53
Spotted seatrout	*Cynoscion nebulosus*	53
Red drum	*Sciaenops ocellata*	53
Spot	*Leiostomus xanthurus*	53
Black drum	*Pogonias cromis*	53
Tilapia	*Tilapia spp.**	53
Striped mullet	*Mugil cephalus*	53
Gulf flounder	*Paralichthys albigutta*	53
Southern puffer	*Sphoeroides nephelus*	53

*** Non-native Species**

Oscar Scherer State Park Animals

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)

AMPHIBIANS

Greater siren	*Siren lacertina*	55
Eastern spadefoot	*Scaphiopus holbrooki holbrooki*	31
Southern toad	*Bufo terrestris*	31
Oak toad	*Bufo quercicus*	16,31
Greenhouse frog	*Eleutherodactylus planirostris**	31,81
Pinewoods treefrog	*Hyla femoralis*	31
Barking treefrog	*Hyla gratiosa*	31
Squirrel treefrog	*Hyla squirella*	8,31
Green treefrog	*Hyla cinerea*	8,31
Cuban treefrog	*Osteopilus septentrionalis**	81
Florida cricket frog	*Acris gryllus dorsalis*	31
Bullfrog	*Rana catesbeiana*	31,55
Southern leopard frog	*Rana sphenocephala*	31,55
Florida gopher frog	*Rana capito aesopus*	16,31
Eastern narrowmouth toad	*Gastrophryne carolinensis*	31

REPTILES

American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	55
Striped mud turtle	*Kinosternon bauri palmarum*	55
Florida box turtle	*Terrapene carolina bauri*	8
Peninsula cooter	*Pseudemys floridana peninsularis*	31,55
Florida chicken turtle	*Deirochelys reticularia chrysea*	55
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	16
Florida softshell	*Trionyx ferox*	55
Green anole	*Anolis carolinensis carolinensis*	8
Cuban brown anole	*Anolis sagrei sagrei**	8,16
Green iguana	*Iguana iguana**	85
Mediterranean gecko	*Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus**	85
Indo-Pacific gecko	*Hemidactylus garnotii**	85
Eastern glass lizard	*Ophisaurus ventralis*	8
Island glass lizard	*Ophisaurus compressus*	8
Six-lined racerunner	*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus sexlineatus*	16
Ground skink	*Scincella lateralis*	8
Southeastern five-lined skink	*Eumeces inexpectatus*	8
Florida worm lizard	*Rhineura floridana*	8
Florida green water snake	*Nerodia cyclopion floridana*	55
Banded water snake	*Nerodia fasciata fasciata*	55
Florida water snake	*Nerodia fasciata pictiventris*	55
Florida brown snake	*Storeria dekayi victa*	8

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)
Eastern garter snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*	8
Peninsula ribbon snake	*Thamnophis sauritus sackeni*	8
Pine woods snake	*Rhadinaea flavilata*	8
Southern ringneck snake	*Diadophis punctatus punctatus*	8
Southern black racer	*Coluber constrictor priapus*	8
Eastern coachwhip	*Masticophis flagellum flagellum*	16
Rough green snake	*Opheodrys aestivus*	8
Eastern indigo snake	*Drymarchon corais couperi*	8,16
Corn snake	*Elaphe guttata guttata*	8
Yellow rat snake	*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata*	8,16
Florida pine snake	*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*	8
Scarlet kingsnake	*Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides*	8
Florida scarlet snake	*Cemophora coccinea coccinea*	8
Eastern coral snake	*Micrurus fulvius fulvius*	8
Eastern cottonmouth	*Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus*	31
Dusky pigmy rattlesnake	*Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*	8,16
Eastern diamondback rattlesnake	*Crotalus adamanteus*	8,16

BIRDS

Pied-billed grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*	55
American white pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*	OF
Eastern brown pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis*	OF
Double-crested cormorant	*Phalacrocorax auritus*	OF
Anhinga	*Anhinga anhinga*	55,OF
Magnificent frigatebird	*Fregata magnificens*	OF
Great blue heron	*Ardea herodias*	31
Green heron	*Butorides virescens*	55
Cattle egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	31
Little blue heron	*Egretta caerulea*	31
Great egret	*Ardea alba*	31
Snowy egret	*Egretta thula*	31
Tricolored heron	*Egretta tricolor*	31
Yellow-crowned night heron	*Nycticorax violaceus*	31,55
Least bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis*	31
Wood stork	*Mycteria americana*	OF
Glossy ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	OF
White ibis	*Eudocimus albus*	31
Roseate spoonbill	*Ajaia ajaja*	OF
Snow goose	*Aen caerulescens*	OF
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	55
Mottled duck	*Anas fulvigula*	55

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)
Blue-winged teal	*Anas discors*	55
Wood duck	*Aix sponsa*	8
Black-bellied whistling-duck	*Dendrocygna autumnalis**	OF
Lesser scaup	*Aythya affinis*	55
Hooded merganser	*Lophodytes cucullatus*	55
Red-breasted merganser	*Mergus serrator*	55
Muscovy duck	*Cairina moschata**	81,OF
Turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*	OF
Black vulture	*Coragyps atratus*	OF
White-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	OF
Swallow-tailed kite	*Elanoides forficatus*	OF
Sharp-shinned hawk	*Accipiter striatus*	16
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	16
Red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	8
Red-shouldered hawk	*Buteo lineatus*	8
Broad-winged hawk	*Buteo platypterus*	OF
Southern bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	8
Northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	8,31
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	8
Crested caracara	*Caracara cheriway*	OF
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus tundrius*	OF
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	8
Northern bobwhite	*Colinus virginianus*	8
Wild turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*	8
Florida sandhill crane	*Grus canadensis pratensis*	31
Limpkin	*Aramus guarauna*	55
Sora	*Porzana carolina*	55
Clapper rail	*Rallus longirostris*	31
Common moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	31
American coot	*Fulica americana*	31
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*	8
Common snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	31
Spotted sandpiper	*Actitis macularia*	31
Solitary sandpiper	*Tringa solitaria*	31
Ring-billed gull	*Larus delawarensis*	OF
Laughing gull	*Larus atricilla*	OF
Least tern	*Sterna antillarum*	OF
Rock dove	*Columba livia*	81
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*	8
Eurasian collared dove	*Streptopelia decaocto**	8
Ringed turtle-dove	*Streptopelia risoria**	81
Common ground-dove	*Columbina passerina*	8,16

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)
Monk parakeet	*Myiopsitta monachus**	OF
Yellow-billed cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*	55
Smooth-billed ani	*Crotophaga ani*	OF
Barn owl	*Tyto alba*	OF
Eastern screech-owl	*Otus asio*	8
Great horned owl	*Bubo virginianus*	8
Barred owl	*Strix varia*	8
Chuck-will's-widow	*Caprimulgus carolinensis*	9
Whip-poor-will	*Caprimulgus vociferus*	9
Common nighthawk	*Chordeiles minor*	OF
Chimney swift	*Chaetura pelagica*	OF
Ruby-throated hummingbird	*Archilochus colubris*	OF
Belted kingfisher	*Ceryle alcyon*	55
Northern flicker	*Colaptes auratus*	8
Pileated woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*	8
Red-bellied woodpecker	*Melanerpes carolinus*	8
Red-headed woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*	8
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus varius*	9
Southern hairy woodpecker	*Picoides villosus audubonii*	8
Downy woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*	8
Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	8
Eastern kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*	8
Gray kingbird	*Tyrannus dominicensis*	8
Great crested flycatcher	*Myiarchus crinitus*	8
Eastern phoebe	*Sayornis phoebe*	8
Eastern wood-pewee	*Contopus virens*	8
Tree swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*	OF
Barn swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	OF
Purple martin	*Progne subis*	OF
Blue jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*	9
Florida scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma coerulescens*	16
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	8
Fish crow	*Corvus ossifragus*	8
Tufted titmouse	*Parus bicolor*	8
Red-breasted nuthatch	*Sitta canadensis*	8
House wren	*Troglodytes aedon*	8
Carolina wren	*Thryothorus ludovicianus*	8
Northern mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*	8,16
Gray catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*	8,16
Brown thrasher	*Toxostoma rufum*	16
American robin	*Turdus migratorius*	9
Wood thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*	9

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)
Hermit thrush	*Catharus guttatus*	9
Swainson's thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*	9
Gray-cheeked thrush	*Catharus minimus*	9
Veery	*Catharus fuscescens*	9
Eastern bluebird	*Sialia sialis*	8
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*	8,16
Ruby-crowned kinglet	*Regulus calendula*	8
Cedar waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*	8
Loggerhead shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*	8
European starling	*Sturnus vulgaris**	8
White-eyed vireo	*Vireo griseus*	8
Yellow-throated vireo	*Vireo flavifrons*	8
Solitary vireo	*Vireo solitarius*	9
Red-eyed vireo	*Vireo olivaceus*	8
Philadelphia vireo	*Vireo philadelphicus*	9
Black and white warbler	*Mniotilta varia*	9
Prothonotary warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*	9
Worm-eating warbler	*Helmitheros vermivorus*	9
Golden-winged warbler	*Vermivora chrysoptera*	9
Tennessee warbler	*Vermivora peregrina*	9
Orange-crowned warbler	*Vermivora celata*	9
Northern parula	*Parula americana*	8,9
Yellow warbler	*Dendroica petechia*	9
Magnolia warbler	*Dendroica magnolia*	9
Cape May warbler	*Dendroica tigrina*	9
Black-throated blue warbler	*Dendroica caerulescens*	9
Yellow-rumped warbler	*Dendroica coronata*	8,9
Black-throated green warbler	*Dendroica virens*	9
Cerulean warbler	*Dendroica cerulea*	9
Blackburnian warbler	*Dendroica fusca*	9
Yellow-throated warbler	*Dendroica dominica*	9
Chestnut-sided warbler	*Dendroica pensylvanica*	9
Bay-breasted warbler	*Dendroica castanea*	9
Blackpoll warbler	*Dendroica striata*	9
Pine warbler	*Dendroica pinus*	9
Kirtland's warbler	*Dendroica kirtlandii*	9
Prairie warbler	*Dendroica discolor*	8
Palm warbler	*Dendroica palmarum*	8
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapillus*	9
Louisiana waterthrush	*Seiurus motacilla*	9
Northern waterthrush	*Seiurus noveboracensis*	9
Kentucky warbler	*Oporornis formosus*	9

*** Non-native Species**

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)
Common yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	8,16
Yellow-breasted chat	*Icteria virens*	8
Hooded warbler	*Wilsonia citrina*	9
American redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla ruticilla*	9
Bobolink	*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*	8
Eastern meadowlark	*Sturnella magna*	8
Red-winged blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*	31
Orchard oriole	*Icterus spurius*	8
Baltimore oriole	*Icterus galbula*	8
Rusty blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*	8
Brewer's blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*	8
Boat-tailed grackle	*Quiscalus major*	31
Common grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*	31
Brown-headed cowbird	*Molothrus ater*	8
Scarlet tanager	*Piranga olivacea*	8
Summer tanager	*Piranga rubra*	8
Northern cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*	8,16
Rose-breasted grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*	8
Blue grosbeak	*Guiraca caerulea*	8
Indigo bunting	*Passerina cyanea*	8
Eastern towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*	8,16
Savannah sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*	8
Bachman's sparrow	*Aimophila aestivalis*	8
Chipping sparrow	*Spizella passerina*	8
Swamp sparrow	*Melospiza georgiana*	8
Song sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*	8
American goldfinch	*Carduelis tristis*	8

MAMMALS

Virginia opossum	*Didelphis virginiana*	8
Short-tailed shrew	*Blarina brevicauda*	8
Least shrew	*Cryptotis parva*	8
Eastern mole	*Scalopus aquaticus*	8,16
Evening bat	*Nycticeius humeralis*	OF
Nine-banded armadillo	*Dasypus novemcinctus**	8,16
Marsh rabbit	*Sylvilagus palustris*	31,55
Eastern cottontail	*Sylvilagus floridanus*	8,16
Gray squirrel	*Sciurus carolinensis*	8,16
Sherman's fox squirrel	*Sciurus niger shermani*	8
Southern flying squirrel	*Glaucomys volans*	8
Marsh rice rat	*Oryzomys palustris*	31

*** Non-native Species**

Oscar Scherer State Park Animals

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Primary Habitat (For All Species)
Cotton mouse	*Peromyscus gossypinus gossypinus*	8,9
Florida mouse	*Podomys floridanus*	16
Hispid cotton rat	*Sigmodon hispidus*	8,9,16
Eastern woodrat	*Neotoma floridana*	9
Black rat	*Rattus rattus**	85
Norway rat	*Rattus norvegicus**	85
Coyote	*Canis latrans**	MTC
Red fox	*Vulpes vulpes**	MTC
Gray fox	*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*	MTC
Raccoon	*Procyon lotor*	MTC
River otter	*Lutra canadensis*	55
Long-tailed weasel	*Mustela frenata olivacea*	MTC
Eastern spotted skunk	*Spilogale putorius*	8
Striped skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*	8
Bobcat	*Felis rufus*	MTC
West Indian manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	55
Wild pig	*Sus scrofa**	8,31
White-tailed deer	*Odocoileus virginianus*	8

*** Non-native Species**

Addendum 6—Imperiled Species Ranking Definitions

The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program Network (of which FNAI is a part) define an element as any exemplary or rare component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave or other ecological feature. An element occurrence (EO) is a single extant habitat that sustains or otherwise contributes to the survival of a population or a distinct, self-sustaining example of a particular element.

Using a ranking system developed by The Nature Conservancy and the Natural Heritage Program Network, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory assigns two ranks to each element. The global rank is based on an element's worldwide status; the state rank is based on the status of the element in Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, the most important ones being estimated number of Element occurrences, estimated abundance (number of individuals for species; area for natural communities), range, estimated adequately protected EOs, relative threat of destruction, and ecological fragility.

Federal and State status information is from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission (animals), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (plants), respectively.

FNAI GLOBAL RANK DEFINITIONS

G1.....Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or fabricated factor.

G2.....Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.

G3.....Either very rare or local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction of other factors.

G4.....apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range)

G5.....demonstrably secure globally

GH .....of historical occurrence throughout its range may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)

GX.....believed to be extinct throughout range

GXC .....extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation

G#?.....Tentative rank (e.g.,G2?)

G#G# .....range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3)

G#T#.....rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species and the T portion refers to the specific subgroup; numbers have same definition as above (e.g., G3T1)

G#Q .....rank of questionable species - ranked as species but questionable whether it is species or subspecies; numbers have same definition as above (e.g.,

G2Q)
G#T#Q.....same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
GU.....due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., GUT2).
G?.....Not yet ranked (temporary)
S1.....Critically imperiled in Florida because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S2.....Imperiled in Florida because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or man-made factor.
S3.....Either very rare or local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction of other factors.
S4.....apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range)
S5.....demonstrably secure in Florida
SH .....of historical occurrence throughout its range, may be rediscovered (e.g., ivory-billed woodpecker)
SX.....believed to be extinct throughout range
SA .....accidental in Florida, i.e., not part of the established biota
SE .....an exotic species established in Florida may be native elsewhere in North America
SN .....regularly occurring but widely and unreliably distributed; sites for conservation hard to determine
SU .....due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned (e.g., SUT2).
S?.....Not yet ranked (temporary)
N .....Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing, by state or federal agencies.

LEGAL STATUS

FEDERAL

(Listed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - USFWS)

LE.....Listed as Endangered Species in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Defined as any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
PE.....Proposed for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants as Endangered Species.LTListed as Threatened Species. Defined as any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the near future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
PT.....Proposed for listing as Threatened Species.
C .....Candidate Species for addition to the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Defined as those species for which the USFWS

currently has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened.

E(S/A) .....Endangered due to similarity of appearance.

T(S/A) .....Threatened due to similarity of appearance.

STATE

ANIMALS ..(Listed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - FFWCC)

LE.....Listed as Endangered Species by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is so rare or depleted in number or so restricted in range of habitat due to any man-made or natural factors that it is in immediate danger of extinction or extirpation from the state, or which may attain such a status within the immediate future.

LT.....Listed as Threatened Species by the FFWCC. Defined as a species, subspecies, or isolated population, which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat, is decreasing in area at a rapid rate and therefore is destined or very likely to become an endangered species within the near future.

LS.....Listed as Species of Special Concern by the FFWCC. Defined as a population which warrants special protection, recognition or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance or substantial human exploitation that, in the near future, may result in its becoming a threatened species?

PLANTS .....(Listed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - FDACS)

LE.....Listed as Endangered Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species of plants native to the state that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue, and includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973,as amended.

LT.....Listed as Threatened Plants in the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act. Defined as species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in such number as to cause them to be endangered.

Addendum 7—Cultural Information

These procedures apply to state agencies, local governments and non-profits that manage state-owned properties.

A. General Discussion

Historic resources are both archaeological sites and historic structures. Per Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, "Historic property" or "historic resource" means any prehistoric district, site, building, object, or other real or personal property of historical, architectural or archaeological value, and folklife resources. These properties or resources may include, but are not limited to, monuments, memorials, Indian habitations, ceremonial sites, abandoned settlements, sunken or abandoned ships, engineering works, treasure trove, artifacts, or other objects with intrinsic historical or archaeological value, or any part thereof, relating to the history, government, and culture of the state."

B. Agency Responsibilities

Per State Policy relative to historic properties, state agencies of the executive branch must allow the Division of Historical Resources (Division) the opportunity to comment on any undertakings, whether these undertakings directly involve the state agency, i.e., land management responsibilities, or the state agency has indirect jurisdiction, i.e. permitting authority, grants, etc. No state funds should be expended on the undertaking until the Division has the opportunity to review and comment on the project, permit, grant, etc.

State agencies shall preserve the historic resources that are owned or controlled by the agency.

Regarding proposed demolition or substantial alterations of historic properties, consultation with the Division must occur, and alternatives to demolition must be considered.

State agencies must consult with Division to establish a program to location, inventory and evaluate all historic properties under ownership or controlled by the agency.

C. Statutory Authority

Statutory Authority and more in depth information can be found in the following:

Chapter 253, F.S. – State Lands

Chapter 267, F.S. – Historical Resources

Chapter 872, F.S. – Offenses Concerning Dead Bodies and Graves

Other helpful citations and references:

Chapter 1A-32, F.A.C. – Archaeological Research

Other helpful citations and references:

Chapter 1A-44, F.A.C. – Procedures for Reporting and Determining Jurisdiction Over Unmarked Human Burials

Chapter 1A-46, F.A C. – Archaeological and Historical Report Standards and Guidelines

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

D. Management Implementation

Even though the Division sits on the Acquisition and Restoration Council and approves land management plans, these plans are conceptual. Specific information regarding individual projects must be submitted to the Division for review and recommendations.

Managers of state lands must coordinate any land clearing or ground disturbing activities with the Division to allow for review and comment on the proposed project. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to: approval of the project as submitted, pre-testing of the project site by a certified archaeological monitor, cultural resource assessment survey by a qualified professional archaeologist, modifications to the proposed project to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Projects such as additions, exterior alteration or related new construction regarding historic structures must also be submitted to the Division of Historical Resources for review and comment by the Division's architects. Projects involving structures fifty years of age or older, must be submitted to this agency for a significance determination**.** In rare cases, structures under fifty years of age may be deemed historically significant. These must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Adverse impacts to significant sites, either archaeological sites or historic buildings, must be avoided. Furthermore, managers of state property should prepare for locating and evaluating historic resources, both archaeological sites and historic structures.

E. Minimum Review Documentation Requirements

In order to have a proposed project reviewed by the Division, the following information, at a minimum, must be submitted for comments and recommendations.

Project Description – A detailed description of the proposed project including all related activities. For land clearing or ground disturbing activities, the depth and extent of the disturbance, use of heavy equipment, location of lay down yard, etc. For historic structures, specific details regarding rehabilitation, demolition, etc.

Project Location – The exact location of the project indicated on a USGS Quadrangle map, is preferable. A management base map may be acceptable. Aerial photos indicating the exact project area as supplemental information are helpful.

Photographs – Photographs of the project area are always useful. Photographs of structures are required.

Description of Project Area – Note the acreage of the project; describe the present condition of project area, and any past land uses or disturbances.

Description of Structures – Describe the condition and setting of each building within project area if approximately fifty years of age or older.

Recorded Archaeological Sites or Historic Structures – Provide Florida Master Site File numbers for all recorded historic resources within or adjacent to the project area. This information should be in the current management plan; however, it can be obtained by contacting the Florida Master Site File at (850) 245-6440 or Suncom 205-6440.

Questions relating to the treatment of archaeological and historic resources on state lands should be directed to:

Susan M. Harp
Historic Preservation Planner
Division of Historical Resources
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Compliance and Review Section
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Phone: (850) 245-6333
Fax: (850) 245-6438

The criteria to be used for evaluating eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are as follows:

1) Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects may be considered to have significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or culture if they possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- **a)** are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; and/or
- **b)** are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; and/or
- **c)** embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and/or
- **d)** have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

2) Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures; properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes; structures that have been moved from their original locations; reconstructed historic buildings; properties primarily commemorative in nature; and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the *National Register*. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- **a)** a religious property deriving its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- **b)** a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- **c)** a birthplace or grave of an historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- **d)** a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, distinctive design features, or association with historic events; or

e) a reconstructed building, when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or a property primarily commemorative in intent, if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

f) a property achieving significance within the past 50 years, if it is of exceptional importance.

Preservation Treatments as Defined by Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural or architectural values.

Stabilization is defined as the act or process of applying measures designed to reestablish a weather resistant enclosure and the structural stability of an unsafe or deteriorated property while maintaining the essential form as it exists at present.

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.