# **Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area**



June 14, 2011 Governing Board Approved Land Management Plan

#### Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area Land Management Plan Summary

Management Area Size: 964 acresDate of Acquisition: Acquisition of the Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area occurred in<br/>September 1996.Date of Plan:June 2011Major Basin:Lower St. Johns RiverPlanning Basin: Black Creek

**Location**: Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area (BCRCA) is located in Clay County east of the town of Middleburg. The property is west of the St. Johns River and south of Black Creek.

**Funding Source**: The acquisition funding source for BCRCA was Save Our Rivers (SOR) bond funds.

**Management Partners:** An intergovernmental management agreement between the District and Clay County designates the County as the lead managing agency for the BCRCA. Clay County manages the day-to-day activities, which includes the administration of the security residence agreement, parking lot maintenance, trash pick-up, and annual trail mowing. The District performs natural and cultural resource management as well as trail and campsite maintenance.

#### **Key Resource Issues:**

#### **Resource Management Issues:**

- WATER RESOURCES While water resources are largely intact and most protection was accomplished with acquisition, there are some disturbances. Alterations are most evident in the areas along the utility (gas and electric lines) corridors.
- FIRE MANAGEMENT Implementation of prescribed burns occur in accordance with annual burn plans and the BCRCA fire management plan.
- FOREST MANAGEMENT- Prior to acquisition, timber was periodically harvested from portions of the property. The District will utilize a combination of harvesting, mechanical vegetation management, herbicide treatments, and prescription burning to encourage optimal forest health.
- WILDLIFE The conservation area provides habitat for numerous wildlife species including the Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), Black Creek crayfish (*Procambarus pictus*), and gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).
- EXOTICS Invasive exotic pest plant and animal species occur on the property. The District regularly monitors for the presence of invasive plants and animals and executes appropriate control action.
- CULTURAL & HISTORICAL RESOURCES A review of the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources indicates three known or registered cultural sites within the boundaries of the conservation area.

#### Key Land Use/Recreation Issues:

#### Land Use Management Issues:

- ACCESS Two public access points/trailheads and one walk-thru are located on the conservation area.
- RECREATION USE The conservation area is open to the public for hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, horseback riding, and primitive camping. Due to the sensitive ecological nature of the seepage areas/ravines bicycling is prohibited within this conservation area.
- SECURITY Maintenance of fence lines, parking areas, gates, and locks is conducted. The District maintains contact with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), local law enforcement, and a private security firm for any potential security needs. Clay County maintains a residence agreement for onsite security.

### Administration:

- ACQUISITION Although no parcels are uniquely identified, the District may consider purchasing parcels near the BCRCA that become available and that will aid in the conservation of water resources within the Black Creek Basin.
- LEASES, EASEMENTS, SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS, AND CONCESSIONS-The District administers the following leases, agreements, easements, special use authorizations (SUAs) and concessions:
  - An SUA for the purposes of arthropod research.
  - An SUA for the purpose of tick and sand fly research.
  - An agreement for the purposes of trail development and maintenance.
  - An intergovernmental management agreement designating management responsibilities between the District and Clay County.

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# INTRODUCTION

This document provides the guidelines and goals for implementation of land management activities at the Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area (BCRCA) over the next five years. This is the fourth management plan for the conservation area.

The BCRCA covers approximately 964 acres in Clay County within the Black Creek drainage basin, a sub-basin of the Lower St. Johns River Basin. This conservation area is located in numerous sections of Townships 5 South and Range 25 East.

The property is located east of the town of Middleburg. State Highway 21/Blanding Boulevard is approximately one mile to the north and west. Black Creek forms a large portion of the north and east boundaries of the property. Figure 1 depicts the location of the conservation area and Figure 2 is a 2009 aerial image of the property.

While an intergovernmental management agreement between the District and Clay County designates the County as lead manager for the property, The District functions as lead managing agency with regards to cultural and natural resource management. The County conducts routine maintenance within the parking areas and oversees the security residence agreement.

The BCRCA was acquired to help meet the goals of the Black Creek and Lower St. Johns River Basin projects as set forth in the District's Florida Forever Work Plan and the District's Water Management Plan. These goals include:

- Improve water quality, maintain natural hydrological regimes, and maintain flood protection by preserving important wetland areas.
- Restore, maintain, and protect native natural communities and diversity.
- Provide opportunities for recreation where compatible with the above listed goals.

The above are general goals and objectives for Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area. The following plan outlines specific goals and strategies regarding both natural and cultural resources and recreation management over the next five years.

# **CONSERVATION AREA OVERVIEW**

### **Regional Significance**

The BCRCA is a significant acquisition in an area with distinctive ecological features and that is peppered with a multitude of other publicly owned land and conservation easements. Figure 1 above depicts the regional significance of the conservation area. The public lands in the vicinity of the BCRCA lands include the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Jennings State Forest, Belmore State Forest, Cecil Field Conservation Corridor, North Region Mitigation Archipelago, and Bayard Conservation Area. These properties combine to create an extensive network of conservation lands, providing for





the protection of water quality and storage, indigenous floral and faunal species, as well as numerous natural resource-based recreational opportunities.

#### **Acquisition History**

The BCRCA is comprised of a single parcel totaling 964 acres (Figure 3). The property was purchased using funding sources as indicated in Table (1) one, which summarizes the land acquisition accomplishments.

Black Creek Ravines (964 acres) Land Acquisition number 1996-064

The Black Creek Ravines parcel totals 964 acres acquired by the District through a single purchase on September 20, 1996 for \$2,149,915 using Save Our Rivers (SOR) funds as part of the Upper Black Creek Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program.

Table 1 – Land Acquisition Summary

Parcel	LA Number	Acres	Total Purchase Price	Closing Date	District Funding Source
Black Creek Ravines	1996-064	964	\$2,149,915	09/20/1996	Save Our Rivers

#### Local Government Land Use Designation

#### Clay County

According to the Clay County 2025 Comprehensive Plan (Clay County 2025 Comprehensive Plan - Future Land Use ), the Future Land Use designation for the property is:

 Recreation/Preservation - Areas of land that are generally owned by public or quasi-public entities. The lands are held for use as non-profit public recreation and open space amenities, and include natural resource land management activities and associated uses. Those owned and maintained by public agencies and open to the public comprise the inventory of regional park facilities in Clay County.



# NATURAL RESOURCES OVERVIEW

#### **Topography and Hydrology**

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area lies within the Duval Upland, a physiographic subdivision of the Sea Island District. The Sea Island District is the portion of Florida associated with the Southeast Georgia Structural Basin. In most places, Ocala limestone is covered by an overburden too thick for it to influence the landscape or drainage. Most areas within the Duval Upland are at elevations between 80 and 100 feet (Brooks). Elevations within the conservation area range from 0 to 95 feet above sea level, with the highest elevation occurring in the xeric hammock along the southwest portions of the property. Lowest elevations, at sea level, occur primarily along the northern reaches of the property near Black Creek

The conservation area drains into the Black Creek Unit, a sub basin of the Lower St. Johns River. The most significant surface hydrological feature of the conservation area is Black Creek and the associated seepage streams and wetlands. The property is located at the confluence of the North Fork of Black Creek and the South Fork of Black Creek. Black Creek forms the northern boundary for much of the property. The lower reaches of Black Creek are affected by the tidal influences of the St. Johns River. Figure 4 depicts the hydrologic features of the conservation area.

An important ecological process occurring within the BCRCA is the recharge and filtering of surface waters. Sandhills are the dominant natural community found at the higher elevations within the conservation area. Sandhills are characterized by deep, nutrient poor sands which are highly permeable, resulting in the rapid infiltration (and low evaporation rate) of rainwater. At the BCRCA, rainwater percolates down until it reaches an impermeable layer located near the base of sandhills, and because the water can no longer move downward, it then flows laterally from the sandhills, forming seepage areas. The characteristics that cause the formation of these seepage areas are the same characteristics that cause them to be extremely fragile. The loosely arranged sands in erosional areas are vulnerable to disturbance. Additionally, the combinations of processes that must occur in concert to form these areas is rare and subsequently so are the associated natural plant communities.

#### Natural Communities

The 964 acres that comprise the BCRCA consist primarily of sandhills, xeric hammock, floodplain swamp, upland hardwood forest, and mesic and wet flatwoods (Figure 5). Table 2 details the percent coverage associated with each natural community documented within the conservation area. Information relative to the natural communities within the conservation area is derived from several sources including management unit assessments and personal observations of District staff. Additionally, the general natural community descriptions are characterized using descriptions published in the Florida Natural Areas Inventory's (FNAI) *Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida*. Natural community and species ranking definitions are listed in Addendum 1.





Natural Community Type	Acreage	Percent Coverage	FNAI Ranking	FNAI Fire Return Interval*
Floodplain	111	12%	G4/S4	This is not a fire adapted
Baygall	3	<1%	G4/S4	This is not a fire-adapted community; however, fires will burn catastrophically during droughts.
Wet Flatwoods	122	13%	G4/S4	1-3 years in grassy systems 5-7 years in shrubby systems
Mesic Flatwoods	107	11%	G4/S4	2-10 years
Scrubby Flatwoods	1	<1%	G2/S2	5-15 years
Upland Hardwood Forest	109	11%	G5/S3	N/A (edges may burn in conjunction with adjacent natural communities)
Sandhill	269	28%	G3/S2	1-3 years
Xeric Hammock	147	15%	G3/S3	Variable – Fire will be applied in conjunction with adjacent community types (sandhills/flatwoods) or in conjunction with mechanical and chemical restoration techniques.
	0.40			
Subtotal	869	-	-	-
Altered Land Types	Acreage	Coverage		Fire Return Interval
Developed	1	<1%	-	N/A
Utility Corridor	94	10%	-	N/A (grassy vegetation may be burned in conjunction with adjacent communities)
Subtotal	<b>Q</b> 5			
Total	964	100%		

Table 2 – Natural Community Coverages

\*Stated FNAI fire return intervals are based on regional differences in communities and fuel loading. The District will target the lowest interval possible that will effectively carry fire.

#### Pine Flatwoods

Flatwoods communities typically occur in low areas with little topography and may be further classified as wet, mesic, or scrubby. Mesic, wet, and scrubby flatwoods occur within the BCRCA. Alterations from past management activities, hydrologic disturbances, and prolonged absence of fire make distinguishing these areas difficult. Natural community reclassification and refinement may occur as restoration and fire management activities progress. Additionally, prior to the 1940s, much of the pine canopy was harvested from the property.

#### Mesic Flatwoods (107 acres)

Soils that support mesic flatwoods communities are generally poorly drained, acidic, and sandy soils deposited on ancient, shallow seabeds. Many flatwoods communities have a clay hardpan. Hardpan soils become saturated during the rainy season causing standing water at the surface. During dry periods, the hardpan layer prevents low groundwater from rising, creating dry, droughty conditions. The presence of the hardpan translates to extreme seasonal fluctuations in the amount of water available to support plant life. These seasonal hydroperiods are essential in the maintenance of the flatwoods system.

Intact or well-maintained mesic flatwoods typically have a layered appearance, with a distinct, high, discontinuous canopy, low shrub layer, and diverse herbaceous layer. The canopy densities are variable and may include (depending on location) longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), slash pine (P. *elliottii*), loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), or pond pine (*P. serotina*). The shrub layer may include a mixed palate, or be dominated by, species such as saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), and numerous members of the Ericaceae family. The herbaceous coverage may be dominated by wiregrass, however species abundance and diversity is often dictated by the openness of both shrub and canopy layers.

The mesic flatwoods communities within the conservation area vary in levels of disturbance. They are largely in good condition with site appropriate species, compositions, and assemblages. The mesic flatwoods located on the southern portions of the property include a newly discovered population of Bartram's ixia (*Calydorea coelestina*). This population was discovered in June 2010 following an early growing season burn that same year.

In addition to seasonal hydroperiods, fire is an important physical factor associated with the shaping and maintenance of this community type. Natural fire return intervals in mesic flatwoods are approximately every two to ten years. Fires in well-maintained mesic flatwoods tend to burn quickly and at relatively low temperatures. In areas of prolonged fire exclusion, altered hydrology, or hardwood encroachment higher soil and fuel moistures may require more extreme conditions to facilitate a fire. This may cause fires to be more catastrophic in nature.

#### Scrubby Flatwoods (1 acre)

Scrubby flatwoods communities generally occur on moderately well drained, sandy soils. This community type occurs on slight rises within mesic flatwoods and in broad transitional areas. Standing water is uncommon in scrubby flatwoods as the depth to the water table is generally greater than adjacent mesic flatwoods.

Scrubby flatwoods have a stratified appearance and are characterized as an open canopy forest of widely scattered pine trees with a sparse shrubby understory and numerous areas of barren white sand. The vegetation in these ecotonal areas is a combination of mesic flatwoods and scrub species. Canopies of the scrubby flatwoods in northern and central Florida may include longleaf or slash pine. Shrub layers will often include scrub oaks, saw palmetto and various Ericaceous plants. Groundcover, while generally sparse, may include wiregrass. The scrubby flatwoods occur on the southwestern portions of the conservation area adjacent to areas of mesic and wet flatwoods and are in good condition.

Fire is an integral component in the perpetuation of this community type. The open areas of bare sand, sparse groundcover vegetation and coverage of largely incombustible oak leaf litter typical of most scrubby flatwoods results in a fire return interval of between 5 and 15 years. Examples of scrubby flatwoods with a higher herbaceous or saw palmetto component may burn more frequently.

#### Wet Flatwoods (122 acres)

Soils that support wet flatwoods communities are generally very poorly drained sandy soils that may have a mucky texture in the upper horizons. Wet flatwoods occur as ecotonal areas between the drier mesic flatwoods and wetter areas such as bogs or swamps. They may also occur in broad, low flatlands embedded within these communities.

Well-maintained wet flatwoods exhibit a relatively open-canopy forest of scattered pine trees (longleaf, loblolly, slash, or pond) or cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*) with either a sparse or absent midstory and a dense groundcover of grasses, herbs, and low shrubs. Understory species of the sub canopy and shrub layers may include sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*), and saw palmetto. The groundcover layer may include species such as wiregrass, blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muhlenbergianum*), and numerous hydrophytic species. The variations in structure and composition may be attributed to subtle edaphic differences as well as hydrologic and fire regimes.

Many of the historic wet flatwoods within the conservation are associated with seepage areas. These flatwoods occupy the transition between the upland hardwood forests that occur on the slopes and the sandhills. Many of these areas exhibit thick organic and leaf litter, but are otherwise intact.

The wet flatwoods plant community is fire dependant with return intervals ranging from one to three years in grassy systems and five to seven years in shrubbier systems. In areas such as the BCRCA, shrubs and subcanopy trees including loblolly bay and sweet bay tend to dominate wet flatwoods where fire has been either low in intensity or absent. The landscape position of many of the wet flatwoods within the conservation area (associated with seepage areas) is likely contributing to the overgrown nature of the midstory components. The seasonal seepage of water through these areas during wet periods creates soil and fuel moisture conditions that may cause lower intensity fires; conversely, when the seepage areas are dry, the organic accumulation presents severe smoke management concerns.

#### Floodplain Swamp (111 acres)

Floodplain swamp communities typically occur on flooded soils along stream channels and within river floodplains. The floodplain swamp communities within the conservation area are associated with Black Creek.

Soils that support floodplain swamp communities are variable, but may include a mixture of sand, organic, and alluvial material. Peat soils may be present in floodplain swamps associated with smaller streams or in areas of low stream velocity. The most important physical factor associated with the shaping and maintenance of the floodplain swamp is the hydroperiod. Extended periods of inundation, which may last for most of the year, are common in the floodplain swamp environment. Alterations to the hydrology within the floodplain swamp, particularly a reduction in the duration of inundation periods may have damaging consequences to the creek system and associated flora and fauna. Since this community type is maintained by hydrologic regimes, it is not fire dependent.

Floodplain swamps across the BCRCA are intact with few discernable alterations. Notable disturbances to this community include road and utility corridor crossings. Typical of the floodplain swamp system, the examples of this community type within the conservation area include a closed-canopy forest of hydrophytic, buttressed trees including bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*).

#### Baygall (3 acres)

Baygall is an evergreen, forested wetland of bay species situated at the base of a slope or in a depression. Baygalls have organic/peat soils, are acidic, and are typically dominated by a dense overstory of bay trees. This natural community does not burn often, as the peat soils stay relatively wet. When soils dry out, baygalls will readily burn.

#### Upland Hardwood Forest (109 acres)

Upland hardwood forests are characterized as well-developed, closed-canopy forests dominated by deciduous hardwood trees. The soils that support these communities are typically sandy clays with substantial organic matter. These areas may also have

limestone or phosphatic rock near the surface and the soils may also have calcareous components.

In previous management plans, these areas were classified as slope forests. Since the writing of the last plan, FNAI has refined the natural community classifications for these two communities. While the two are similar community types sharing some species compositions and landscape positions (on slopes), slope forests are further defined by the presence of exceedingly rare and highly localized plant species that occupy a small range within the Apalachicola River Basin.

The areas designated in the 2007 plan as upland mixed forest have been classified in this plan as upland hardwood forests. In the 2010 revision to the FNAI *Guide to Natural Communities*, the upland mixed forest is no longer included as a community type. Much of what was classified as an upland mixed forest under the 1990 FNAI Guide will now be classified as upland hardwood forest, as is the case at BCRCA.

Upland hardwood forests within the BCRCA occur on slopes and in conjunction with seepage streams, as well as in higher elevations and bluffs along Black Creek. These areas are largely in good condition.

Light gap succession is the primary natural process required for the maintenance of upland hardwood forests. This occurs when an emergent tree falls causing an opening in the canopy and allowing direct sunlight to reach the forest floor. While localized damage from fires that creep in from adjacent pyric plant communities may occur along the edges of the upland hardwood forest, fires rarely burn completely through the system.

#### Sandhill (269 acres)

Sandhills are characterized as a forest of widely spaced pine trees with a sparse understory of deciduous oaks and a fairly dense and diverse groundcover of grasses and herbs on rolling hills of sand. The most typical associations are dominated by longleaf pine, turkey oak (*Quercus laevis*), and wire grass. Sandhills occur on crests and slopes of rolling hills and ridges. Soils are deep marine deposited, yellowish sands that are well drained and relatively infertile.

The sandhill plant community is a fire climax community. Frequent, low- intensity, and seasonally appropriate fire is necessary to perpetuate the proliferation of fire adapted plant species and to restrict the successional changes that may transition these areas into xeric hammocks. Fire return intervals within sandhill communities range from one to three years. Sandhills within the BCRCA vary in levels of disturbance, with the primary disturbance being fire exclusion. Since the time of acquisition, restoration activities including mowing, herbicide treatments, and the application of prescribed fire have been conducted in an effort to reverse successional changes within the sandhills.

#### Xeric Hammock (147 acres)

Xeric hammock is characterized as an evergreen forest with a low canopy and little understory plants other than palmetto, or a multi-storied forest of tall trees with an open or closed canopy. Several gradations between these extremes may occur. The xeric hammock natural community is typically an advanced successional stage of scrub or sandhill. It is a climax community, having been protected from fire for 30 or more years. When fire does occur in the xeric hammock, it is under extreme conditions, burns catastrophically and it may revert the community back to an earlier successional stage.

The xeric hammocks within the BCRCA are typical as described by FNAI in that they have succeeded from sandhill. Many of these areas are dominated by a dense canopy of laurel oak, but retain remnant sandhill vegetation including turkey oak and wiregrass.

#### Developed (1 acre)

The developed areas within the BCRCA include the security residence and northern parking area.

#### Utility Corridor (94 acres)

The utility corridor includes a Florida Power & Light high voltage power line and a Clay Electric transmission line. This utility corridor bisects the conservation area, extending the length of the property from north to south with the two lateral lines extending towards the southeast and southwest near the southern end of the property. Additionally, a Seacoast natural gas transmission line is co-located within the high voltage powerline footprint. A parking area is located within the high voltage powerline footprint and is included in these acres. Portions of the utility corridor that bisect seepage areas include many plants indicative of the historic seepage slope community including a large number of native grass species, pitcherplants, sundews, and butterworts.

#### Soils

According to data produced by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil and Conservation Service, 10 different soil types are within the BCRCA. Figure 6 contains a soils map of the conservation area. The Clay County Soil Survey provided information used to develop descriptions of the predominant soil series found within the BCRCA. The soil descriptions are located in Addendum 2.



# PAST MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This section describes management strategies outlined in the 2007 land management plan and provides the status of each item.

Water Resources 2007 Plan Strategy	Status
Regularly monitor roads, bridges, crossings, and	District staff inspect all roads, trails, and water
trails for erosion problems	crossings for erosion problems. In 2009, the
	District stabilized the road along the powerline at
	the seepage areas using fill, limerock, scrap rock,
	and ballast and water bars were installed.
	Additionally, a portion of the trail system on the
	south end of the property was re-routed to mitigate
	erosion problems.

Forest Management 2007 Plan Strategy	Status
Utilize prescribed fire as a forest management	Since 2005, District staff has conducted 11
tool	burns for a total of 1018 acres.
Utilize mechanical or chemical methods to	District staff has applied herbicide to reduce
manipulate species or density.	oak canopies in sandhill areas. Since 2007,
	approximately 69 acres have been basally
	treated using Garlon4.
Calculate the costs of road improvements in	District land management staff have
order to determine whether a timber harvest in	determined that timber harvests on the northern
the northern portions of the property will be	portions of the property are not necessary.
feasible.	
Monitor forested areas for drought, disease, or	District land management staff regularly
insect infestation.	inspect forested areas for drought, disease, and
	insect infestation. In April 2010,
	approximately 16 acres of pine were salvaged
	after mortality associated with flooding.
Evaluate any clearcut areas and implement	No clearcut operations have been conducted
appropriate restoration techniques.	since the writing of the last plan. The salvage
	area is being monitored for natural
	regeneration. Additionally, removal of hazard
	trees along the southern and eastern boundaries
	was conducted in 2011.
Complete site preparation burns or chemical	No clearcut operations or other activities
applications in appropriate areas prior to	requiring replanting have been conducted.
replanting.	

Fire Management 2007 Plan Strategy	Status
Develop and implement a comprehensive long-	A fire management plan was written and
term prescribed fire management plan.	included as an appendix in the 2007 land
	management plan.
Utilize mechanical or chemical methods to	District staff have applied herbicide to reduce
manipulate species or density.	oak canopies in sandhill areas. Since 2007,
	approximately 69 acres have been basally
	treated using Garlon4.
Introduce dormant season burns in areas with	Since 2005, District land management staff
high fuel loads and areas where fire has been	have conducted 1 burn totaling 60 acres during

excluded.	the dormant season.
Continue to conduct dormant season burns	Conducted as necessary.
until fuel reduction goals are met.	
Implement growing season burns in areas that	Since 2005, District land management staff
have sufficiently reduced fuels.	have conducted 10 burns totaling 958 acres
	during the growing season.

Invasive Species 2007 Plan Strategy	Status
Continue to monitor for invasive plant species	District staff regularly monitor for invasive
and treat as necessary.	plant species and apply appropriate treatment.
	Infestations across the conservation area are
	low and in maintenance phase.

Cultural Resources 2007 Plan Strategy	Status
Document and report any new cultural sites to	No new sites have been identified
the Division of Historical Resources.	No new sites have been identified.
Modify land management activities in order to	
eliminate potential disturbance to existing	No new sites have been identified
cultural sites.	

Access 2007 Plan Strategy	Status
Perform routine maintenance on roads,	District staff perform road maintenance
crossing, and trails within the BCRCA.	activities.
Perform any improvements or repairs needed	Since the writing of the last plan, stabilization
on roads, trails, and crossings.	improvements have been made to the seepage
	areas on the road beneath the powerline.
	Equestrian activity has been restricted in this
	area to minimize erosion problems.
Maintain necessary fencing, gates, and signage	Fencing and gates are maintained as needed.
within the conservation area.	Portions of the boundary were reposted in
	2011.
Maintain boundary markers.	The boundary is marked and posted.
Maintain parking and walk-through areas.	Parking areas and public access/walk-through
	areas are maintained by Clay County.

<b>Recreation 2007 Plan Strategy</b>	Status
Determine appropriate type of restroom needed	See Below
at BCRCA.	
Install restroom facility.	In 2007, District land management staff had a
	portable restroom facility installed at the group
	campsite.
Maintain restroom facility.	The restroom facility is regularly serviced via a
	maintenance contract.
Perform intensive trail maintenance activities,	The District, through a trail maintenance
including refreshing trail markings and	contract, performs trail maintenance as
trimming limbs.	necessary. In 2009, a portion of the trail on the
	southern end of the property was re-routed off
	the seepage areas on the powerline to mitigate
	erosion problems.
Update trail guide.	Updates to the District website and trail

	brochures are made as necessary.		
Maintain kiosk and entrance signs.	Kiosks and entrance signs are maintained		
	monthly.		
Perform routine maintenance of camping and	The District and Clay County perform		
picnic areas.	maintenance at the camping areas.		
Perform intensive maintenance of camping and	The District and Clay County perform		
picnic areas.	maintenance at the camping areas.		

#### **Environmental Education 2007 Plan Strategy**

Environmental Education 2007 Plan Strategy	Status		
Encourage educational opportunities as they	The District encourages educational		
arise.	opportunities as they arise.		

Security 2007 Plan Strategy	Status		
Maintain contract with private security firm.	The District land management staff coordinate		
	monthly with private security firm.		
Continue coordination with Clay County and	The District land management staff coordinate		
on-site security resident.	monthly or as needed with Clay County/local		
	law enforcement, FWC, and the security		
	resident.		

Acquisition 2007 Plan Strategy	Status		
Pursue acquisition of additional lands in the	No acquisition opportunities have been		
vicinity of the conservation area.	available since the writing of the last plan.		

#### **Cooperative Agreements 2007 Plan Strategy**

Cooperative Agreements 2007 Plan Strategy	Status		
Maintain cooperative agreement with Clay	The cooperative agreement is current.		
County.			

#### Leases. Agreements. and Concessions 2007 Plan Strategy Status

a,						
	Maintain SUA issued to on-site security	The security resident agreement is between				
	resident.	Clay County and the resident.				
	Maintain SUA issued to an individual to	This SUA has expired.				
	perform scientific research.					

# **IMPLEMENTATION**

The following sections outline land management strategies for resource protection, land use, and administration on the conservation area for the next five years.

## **RESOURCE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

#### Water Resource Protection

While most wetlands protection was accomplished through acquisition, portions of the wetlands and surface waters within the conservation area are disturbed. Hydrologic disturbances within the conservation area include roads, utility corridors, ditches, swales, water bars, and low water crossings.

Roads and associated ditches exist across the conservation area, providing access for both management and recreation. The District has made improvements to roads and installed water bars within the conservation area, helping to reduce erosion problems associated with seepage areas along the powerline corridor.

An erosion issue exists on the road/trail that runs adjacent to the creek on the northwest portion of the property. In this area, the road is bound by the creek to the west and the slope of the upland hardwood forest to the east. The District plans to stabilize the road edge with gabions and restore the road section to functionality

Water Resource Strategies

- Regularly inspect roads, ditches, crossings, fire lines, and trails for erosion problems.
- Stabilize erosion problems on road adjacent to creek.
- Continue to protect the seepage areas that are bisected by roads and utility corridors.

#### Utilities

In 2010, construction of a natural gas transmission line through the conservation area was complete. The gas line is co-located within the Florida Power & Light utility corridor. District land management staff coordinated closely with staff from Seacoast Natural Gas and their consultants to minimize impacts to the conservation area. Unfortunately, the work did result in the loss of a population of Bartram's ixia (*Calydorea coelestina*) located within the project footprint. District staff discovered this population of Bartram's ixia during the utility work process. The Florida Natural Area's Inventory has requested documentation of this population should it regenerate.

#### **Utilities Strategies**

• Monitor the gas line for reestablishment of Bartram's ixia and report any sightings to FNAI.

#### Flora and Fauna

The Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area has a diverse assemblage of natural communities providing significant habitat for a variety of floral and faunal species.

The Florida black bear, listed by the State of Florida as a Threatened species, is documented within the conservation area. In addition to a host of diseases and parasites and habitat loss and fragmentation, threats to the bear include human caused mortality and incompatible habitat management. Human caused mortality typically includes illegal killing, euthanasia performed on nuisance bears, and roadkill (Draft Black Bear Management Plan for Florida Ursus americanus floridanus, 2008). The conservation area lies within the secondary range for the Ocala subpopulation of the black bear in Clay County. The conservation area is a significant acquisition in providing connectivity to other conservation lands and provides an optimal range of desirable habitat and seasonal food sources for bears.

The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), listed by the State of Florida as a Threatened species is documented within the conservation area. In addition to disease, threats to the gopher tortoise in Florida include habitat loss and destruction from urbanization and conversion to agriculture and habitat degradation resulting from silvicultural activities and fire exclusion (Gopher Tortoise Management Plan, 2007).

In 2010, a gopher tortoise burrow survey was conducted within the sandhills and xeric hammocks targeted for restoration/enhancement. The survey yielded a population estimate of 3.003 tortoises/acre, with the majority of the potentially occupied burrows occurring in the higher quality sandhills. Tortoise population estimates within the xeric hammock and the more degraded/canopied sandhills are ~1.051/acre.

The BCRCA includes approximately 269 acres of sandhill and 147 acres of xeric hammock. The xeric hammocks are advanced successional stages of sandhill, likely resulting from disturbances including the removal of pine and prolonged fire exclusion. In areas where the canopy closure exceeds 60%, restoration and enhancement activities will occur (discussed below in Ecological Management section). Restoration within these areas is intended to improved and expand habitat for the onsite population of gopher tortoises and burrow commensals.

The Black Creek crayfish (*Procambarus pictus*), designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Species of Concern and by the State of Florida as a Species of Special Concern, is documented within the conservation area. The range of this crustacean is restricted to a few small water bodies in northeast Florida, particularly within the Black Creek and Rice Creek drainage basins.

In 2007, seepage streams within the BCRCA were sampled as part of the larger research project, <u>Status of Caddisflies (Insect: Trichoptera in Greatest Conservation Need)</u>, which was grant funded by the FWC. The project "investigated the status of caddisfly species that [were] designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Florida's

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy" (Rasmussen, 2008). The streams within BCRCA yielded six caddisfly species during the survey period, including the Littleentrance Oxyethiran Microcaddisfly (*Oxyethira janella*), which is listed by FWC as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

In 2009, student volunteers constructed bat boxes as part of a community service project. Three of these boxes were installed on the BCRCA. Boxes are checked periodically when staff or volunteers are onsite. No bats or evidence of bats has been observed in the boxes to date.

Floral and Faunal Strategies

- Conduct diversity surveys and develop species list (Addendum 3).
- Continue to monitor for the presence of listed species.
- Continue to monitor gopher tortoise population dynamics in conjunction with habitat restoration activities.
- Continue to monitor bat boxes and record any activity.

#### Forest Management and Ecological Restoration/Enhancement

Chapter 253.036, Florida Statutes requires the lead agency of state lands to prepare a forest resource analysis, "...which shall contain a component or section...which assesses the feasibility of managing timber resources on the parcel for resource conservation and revenue generation purposes through a stewardship ethic that embraces sustainable forest management practices if the lead management agency determines that the timber resource management is not in conflict with the primary management objectives of the parcel." The management objectives of this property may require the harvesting or removal of pine and hardwoods. Primary objectives of harvesting on the BCRCA are restorative in nature and are to improve species diversity and the overall natural community health and vigor. All revenue generated through forest management is applied towards the District's Land Management Division budget to offset management costs for the property.

Prior to public acquisition most of the upland acres within the conservation area were harvested of mature, overstory pine and the property was subsequently used for cattle grazing. Air photo interpretation indicates that portions of the property were logged prior to 1943 and the remaining uplands were logged sometime after. An open landscape of unimproved pasture/native range was maintained through the 1980s via cattle grazing activities and burning. Prolific oak encroachment (primarily laurel and turkey oak) into these areas began after 1984 and continued until the time of acquisition when District staff began sandhill restoration efforts.

In 2008, the District conducted herbicide treatments on approximately 69 acres (Figure 7) of oak encroached sandhill, targeting the removal of sand live oak, laurel oak, water oak, and some large stature turkey oak, using Garlon4. While no baseline monitoring was conducted, anecdotal observations indicated a canopy closure of between 80-95% in the treatment areas. Groundcover was suppressed, with only remnant wiregrass and other species observed.



During the scope of this plan, District staff anticipates applying herbicide treatments to approximately 138 acres of oak encroached sandhill (Figure 7 above), including second treatments to the areas treated in 2008. It is expected that Garlon 4 will be used in the retreatment areas as well as in areas where canopy coverage is lower and herbaceous components are higher. Velpar will likely be used in areas of heavy canopy closure with little if any groundcover components remaining.

Forest management activities anticipated during the scope will focus primarily the encouragement of natural pine regeneration through the removal of offsite oaks from the sandhill natural communities and an overall reduction of the oak canopy within these systems. There are no harvests or plantings of pines anticipated during the scope of this plan.

The District will abide by Florida Silviculture Best Management Practices and will target the achievement of appropriate overstory species in proper densities as described in the District Forest Management Plan. The District will harvest trees as needed in the case of insect infestations, disease, and damage from severe weather, wildfire, or other occurrences that could jeopardize the health of natural plant communities.

#### **Forest Management Strategies**

- Conduct groundcover monitoring in sandhill restoration/enhancement areas.
- o Implement herbicide treatment in oak encroached sandhills.

#### **Fire Management**

Fire is a vital factor in managing the character and composition of vegetation in many of the natural plant communities in Florida. The District's primary use of fire is to mimic natural fire regimes to encourage the proliferation of native pyric plant communities and dependant wildlife. Additionally, the application of fire aids in the reduction of fuels and minimizes the potential for catastrophic and damaging wildfires. Most of the upland natural plant communities at the BCRCA are fire adapted, making prescribed fire an important tool for use in the restoration and maintenance of plant communities within the conservation area. Since 2005, District staff have conducted 11 burns for a total of 1018 acres. Figure 8 illustrates prescribed fire accomplishments since 2005.

Historically, the majority of fires occurring on what is now the BCRCA would have been ignited by lightning during the growing season. The District intends to utilize growing season fires where possible, understanding that constraints in some areas such as high fuel loading may predicate the use of dormant season burning.

Limiting factors narrowing the window of opportunity for the application of prescribed fire on the portions of the conservation area include the close proximity to critical smoke sensitive areas including SR 21 (Blanding Blvd), CR 218, Henley Road, the developed areas such as the towns of Middleburg and Lake Asbury, as well as the down drainage effects of Black Creek. Smoke management is vital and any potential burns will be



conducted to minimize off-site impacts by directing smoke plumes away from smoke sensitive areas and by ensuring adequate smoke dispersal. Smoke management concerns and smoke radii for the BCRCA are depicted in Figure 9.

While prescribed fire is the preferred tool for restoration and maintenance within the conservation area, it may be necessary, under certain circumstances, to implement alternative methods. During periods of extended drought conditions or in areas where implementing prescribed fire safely is not feasible, the District may employ management methods such as selective herbicide treatments, mowing, roller chopping, and overstory manipulation.

All implementation of prescribed fire within the conservation area will be conducted in accordance with the District's Fire Management Plan, the Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area Fire Management Plan (Addendum 4), and the annual burn plan for the property.

Fire Management Strategies

- o Implement prescribed burning as described in the District's Fire Management Plan.
- Develop annual burn plans.
- Maintain appropriate burn rotations within the sandhills.
- Continue to implement growing season burns within the conservation area.
- Continue to populate the fire management database.

#### **Exotic Species**

Several exotic pest plants occur within the conservation area including:

- Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*)
- Chinese tallow (Sapium sebiferum)
- Bahia grass (Paspalum notatum)
- Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin)
- Cogongrass (Imperata cylindrica)

The BCRCA is part of the District's invasive plant management program. Exotic species control is necessary to inhibit the continued proliferation of exotic plants and integral in the maintenance and restoration of natural plant communities. While it is unlikely that the District will entirely eradicate invasive plants within the conservation area, achieving maintenance control of such species is targeted within the scope of this plan. At this level, the property is regularly monitored and treated as necessary.

Exotic wildlife species known to occur within the conservation area include feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*), and nine-banded armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*). Feral hog damage is minimal within the conservation. Should control measures be required, the District may coordinate such activities through a feral hog agent Special Use Authorization (SUA) or The United States Department of Agriculture may be contracted to assist.



Laurel wilt, a disease of red bays (*Persea borbonia*) and other trees in the laurel family has been observed in red bay populations in areas near the conservation area. The disease has not been specifically observed within the BCRCA. Caused by a fungus, laurel wilt is carried and transmitted by the non-native red bay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*.) The beetles generally attack healthy mature trees and the subsequent fungal infection causes the flow of water to be restricted to the leaves and branches, eventually causing mortality. Laurel wilt is devastating to infected populations and there are currently no established methods for controlling the laurel wilt disease in wild populations of *Persea*.

This disease has the potential to have detrimental effects on wildlife populations, including the palamedes swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio palamedes*). The palamedes is relatively common in Florida. Larval host plants for the palamedes swallowtail butterfly include several species of *Persea*, but are primarily red bay.

#### Exotic Species Strategies

- Continue exotic plant control.
- Monitor and map treated populations of invasive plants.
- Initiate feral hog control if necessary.

#### **Cultural Resources Protection**

A review of the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) indicates three documented Florida Master Site File cultural sites within the conservation area. If any additional; sites are located, District staff will document and report sites to the DHR. District land management activities that may affect or impact these resources will be evaluated and modified to reduce the potential for disturbance of the identified sites. Additionally, detrimental activities discovered on these sites will also be reported to the DHR and appropriate law enforcement agencies. Due to District and State policy, the location of the sites is not identified on public maps.

#### Cultural Resources Strategies

• Identify and report additional sites to the DHR.

### LAND USE MANAGEMENT

#### Access

Two public parking areas are located along the southwestern portions of the property. The parking areas include wood panel fencing, walkthroughs providing for recreational access at the trailhead, and a kiosk with information panels. The northernmost parking area includes a pitcher pump for equestrian water use. A walk-through provides public access form the Lake Asbury neighborhoods.

There are seven gates providing management access to and across the property. These gates are monitored regularly for maintenance and/or repair needs from normal wear and tear and vandalism.

Several roads traverse the conservation area. In order to maintain District roads the main roads at the BCRCA are identified and classified according to anticipated maintenance needs. All roads currently mapped within the conservation area are classified by the District as either "Type C", "Type D", or "Type E". Type C roads are stabilized roads between 12 and 24 feet wide with a surface of native soils or a combination of clay, lime, or coquina rock, sand and grass. These roads will include shoulders and ditches on each side of the road and maintenance will include routine mowing. Type D roads are roads with limited stabilized surfaces with or without ditches (existing) that receive occasional traffic. Maintenance consists of routine mowing of the road surface and side and overhead vegetation. Type E roads are seasonal roads that receive infrequent traffic. Maintenance is generally restricted to mowing to prevent encroachment by vegetation. These roads often serve as recreational trails and some may be harrowed to serve as fire lines. Figure 10 depicts the location of the parking area and roads on the property. Table (3) three details the miles of unique road types within the conservation area.

Road Classification Type	Miles		
Type C	1.8		
Type D	.86		
Type E	6.8		
Total Miles	9.46		

Table	3_	Road	Class	ificat	ion	Table
raute	5	Noau	Class	moa	non	raute

#### Access Strategies

• Maintain parking areas, signs, gates, trails, and roads.

#### Recreation

The primary objective of the Recreation Management Program is to facilitate resourcebased recreational activities on District lands. An aspect in developing the SJRWMD Recreation Program is not to compete with other local recreational opportunities, but rather to complement what they already have in place by filling an outdoor recreation niche through dispersed recreation opportunities. Dispersed recreation activities generally require large tracts of land with some level of isolation. This type of recreation blends well with District conservation areas, providing numerous opportunities for passive recreation, which also provides solitude and challenge.

Recreational opportunities within the conservation area are geared towards dispersed resource-based activities. The conservation area includes two trailheads with designated parking areas, information kiosks, and access to the land using trails that are primarily interior roads and firelines that are currently maintained for land and water management purposes. The trail system is available for hiking, wildlife viewing, equestrian activities and provides access to the primitive and group campsites.



Due to the sensitive nature and erodibility of the ravines and seepage areas, bicycling is not permitted within the conservation area. The group campsite includes a water source, picnic tables, fire ring, and is near the restroom facility. Figure 11 illustrates recreational trails and improvements within the conservation area.

The recreation infrastructure is well established within the BCRCA and is actively maintained. The approximately 8 miles of trails are maintained through a trail maintenance contract. Grassy trails and road edges are mowed four (4) times yearly. The parking areas are maintained by Clay County. Additionally, the trails are blazed and trimmed of overhanging branches as needed.

In 2007, the District installed a portable restroom facility along the white trail near the group campsite. Due to budgetary constraints, the restroom facility may be removed during the scope of this plan.

In 2009, the District re-routed a portion of the trail system to bypass the ravine/seepage area along the power lines. High equestrian traffic was causing erosion problems in this area. Trails and other recreation improvements may be altered, relocated, or closed during forest management activities, road construction/repair, prescribed fire, or during other work or when a safety hazard is present.

In 2010, District staff identified an unauthorized campsite along the northwestern boundary on Black Creek. The camp is located on a sandy beach and includes improvements, such as a large flagpole and grill. While the trash resulting from this sandbar/campsite occurs on the conservation area, the sandbar is outside the District's boundary.

The entire conservation area is open to the public for passive recreation and is included in the District's *Recreation Guide to District Lands*, which can be viewed online at www.floridaswater.com.

**Recreation Strategies** 

- Continue trail and facility maintenance.
- Include any recreation improvements on the District's web site and in the next edition of the District's <u>*Recreation Guide to District Lands.*</u>



Black Creek Bluff observation point 7

shortest route (one way) - 2.2 miles
### **Environmental Education**

The District offers numerous educational opportunities in the form of online materials and workshops. Programs include Project Wet and the Great Water Odyssey. The former is a program designed to teach educators about water resources and is based on FCAT standards while the latter is an interactive, multidisciplinary educational experience offered free of charge to educators within the District. Implementing a Legacy Program for this conservation area will be evaluated.

#### Environmental Education Strategies

• Continue to offer environmental education opportunities.

#### Security

The boundaries of the BCRCA were marked and posted soon after the original survey work was complete and it was reposted in 2011. While portions of the boundary were fenced prior to acquisition, some of the conservation area boundary, particularly through the forested wetlands, may remain unfenced.

Security concerns include illegal motorized vehicle access and poaching. Law enforcement for the property is administered by the District, primarily through a contract security firm as well as coordination with FWC, and local law enforcement. Additionally, Clay County maintains a residence agreement for the purposes of providing additional security on the conservation area.

### Security Strategies

- Maintain signage, fencing, gates, and locks.
- Continue coordination with private security firm, FWC local law enforcement, and security resident.

# ADMINISTRATION

#### Acquisition

There are no anticipated surpluses or acquisitions associated with the Black Creek Ravines Conservation area in the next five years.

#### Acquisition Strategies

• Evaluate adjacent properties for potential acquisition.

### **Cooperative Agreements, Leases, Easements, and Special Use Authorization**

In accordance with District Policy #90-16, the District promotes entering into agreements with other agencies and private parties for cooperation and coordination of management of the District's lands. These cooperative agreements serve to protect the District's water management interests and to enhance the management and public value of the land. The agreements associated with the BCRCA are detailed in Table (4) four.

An intergovernmental management agreement between the District and Clay County designates the County as the lead managing agency for the BCRCA. Clay County manages the day-to-day activities, which includes parking lot maintenance, and annual trail mowing. The County also administers the security residence agreement. The District performs natural and cultural resource management as well as trail and campsite maintenance. During the scope of this plan, the District and the County will pursue amending the agreement to better reflect management responsibilities within the BCRCA.

Agreement Number	Agreement Name	Туре	Term
748	Garrison, James	Arthropod Research SUA	1-year; expires January 31, 2012
108	Lake Asbury Riding Association	Agreement	Automatic renewal – 3-year increments
101	Clay County	Intergovernmental Management Agreement	Automatic renewal – 5-year increments
585	Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study; University of Georgia	Tick and Sand Fly Research SUA	Automatic renewal – Annually, terminating June 21, 2014.

Table 4 – Agreements, Easements, and SUA Table

Cooperative Agreements, Leases, Easements, and Special Use Authorization Strategies

- Amend the intergovernmental management agreement with Clay.
- Continue to administer research SUAs.

# **IMPLEMENTATION CHART**

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area - Management Implementation Chart- 2011				
TASK	RESPONSIBLE	<b>DUE DATE</b>	COOPERATORS	
	LEAD			
<b>RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>	AND MANAGE	MENT		
Water Resources				
Regularly inspect roads, ditches,				
bridges, culverts, crossings, fire lines,	DLM			
and trails for erosion problems.				
Stabilize erosion problem on road				
adjacent to creek.				
Continue to maintain the seepage				
areas that are bisected by roads and	DLM	2012		
utility corridors.				
Utilities				
Monitor the gas line for regeneration		Annually		
of Bartram's ixia and notify FNAI of		between June		
any sightings.	DLM	and July –	FNAI	
		especially in the		
		years following		
Flore and Fauna		lifes		
Conduct diversity surveys and		Upon discovery		
develop species lists		and especially in		
develop species lists.	DLM	the years		
		following fires		
Continue to monitor for the presence	DUM			
of listed species.	DLM			
Continue to monitor gopher tortoise				
population dynamics in conjunction	DLM	2012, 2014		
with habitat restoration activities.				
Continue to monitor bat boxes and		As they are		
record any activity.	DLM	encountered		
	2 2111	during other		
		work activities.		
Forest Management				
conduct groundcover monitoring in	DIM	Annually -		
areas	DLM	Spring/Summer		
Implement herbicide treatment in oak				
encroached sandhills	DLM	2015		
Fire Management				
Implement prescribed burning as				
described in the District's Fire	DLM			
Management Plan.				
Develop annual burn plans.	DI M	Annually by		
		September 1 <sup>st</sup>		
	DLM			

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE	COOPERATORS
Maintain appropriate hurn rotations			
within sandhills.			
Continue to implement growing			
season burns within the conservation	DLM		
area.			
Continue to populate the fire	DI M	As fires occur	
management database.	DLIVI	As files occur	
Exotic Species			
Continue exotic plant control	DLM	2011	
Monitor and map treated populations	DLM	A 11	
of invasive plants.	DLM	Annually	
Initiate feral hog control if necessary.	DLM		USDA
Cultural Resources			
Identify and report sites to the DHR.	DLM	Upon discovery	DHR
LAND USE MANAGEMENT			
Access			
Maintain parking areas, signs, gates,	DIM		CC
trails, and roads.	DLM		
Recreation			
Continue trail and facility		Monthly or as	CC
maintenance.	DLM	necessary	
Include any recreation improvements			
on the District's web site and in the			00
next edition of the District's	DLM		UC UC
<u>Recreation Guide to District Lands</u> .			
Environmental Education			
Continue to offer environmental	DI M		00
education opportunities.	DLW		00
Security			
Maintain signage, fencing, gates, and	DI M	As necessary	CC
locks.	DLW	As necessary	
Continue coordination with private		Monthly or as	
security firm, FWC local law	DLM	necessary	CC, FWC
enforcement, and security resident.		necessary	
ADMINISTRATION			
Acquisition			
<ul> <li>Evaluate adjacent properties</li> </ul>	DPS	Annually by	
for potential acquisition.	DK5	September 1	DLIVI, CC
<b>Cooperative Agreements</b>			
• Amend the intergovernmental			
management agreement with		2012	CC
Clay County.	DLM		
• Continue to administer	DI M		DRS
research SUAs	DEM		DIO

#### **IMPLEMENTATION CHART KEY**

CC Clay County

- DLM Division of Land Management
- FDHR Florida Div. of Historical Resources
- FWC Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- OC Office of Communications
- DRS Division of Real Estate Services

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### **ADDENDUM 1 – Species Ranking Definitions**

#### FNAI GLOBAL RANKING

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 man-made 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 and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.

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

G5 = Demonstrably secure globally.

#### FNAI STATE RANKING

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 manmade 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 and local in Florida (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals) or found locally in a restricted range or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.

S4 = Apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range).

S5 = Demonstrably secure in Florida.

#### STATE LEGAL STATUS

**LE** Endangered: species, subspecies, or isolated population so few or depleted in number or so restricted in range that it is in imminent danger of extinction.

**LT** Threatened: species, subspecies, or isolated population facing a very high risk of extinction in the future.

**LS** Species of Special Concern is a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is facing a moderate risk of extinction in the future.

**PE** Proposed for listing as Endangered.

**PT** Proposed for listing as Threatened.

**PS** Proposed for listing as Species of Special Concern.

N Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

#### FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS

**LE** Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**LT** Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

LT,PDL Species currently listed threatened but has been proposed for delisting.

LT,PE Species currently listed Threatened but has been proposed for listing as Endangered.

**PE** Proposed for listing as Endangered species.

**PT** Proposed for listing as Threatened species.

**C** Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened.

**XN** Non-essential experimental population.

**SC** Not currently listed, but considered a "species of concern" to USFWS.

**N** Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing as Endangered or Threatened.

### **ADDENDUM 2 - Soil Descriptions**

The Albany series are very deep, somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in marine and fluviomarine deposits or eolian deposits. Natural vegetation consists of longleaf pine, slash pine, or loblolly pine with hardwood trees and an understory of gallberry, wax myrtle, and scattered palmetto. Heavy wiregrass is characteristic.

The Blanton series consists of very deep, somewhat excessively drained to moderately well drained, moderately to slowly permeable soils on uplands and stream terraces in the Coastal Plain. They formed in sandy and loamy marine or eolian deposits. Natural vegetation consists of slash and longleaf pine, red, blue jack, and live oak with an understory of chinkapin, highland fern, huckleberry, and pineland threeawn, bluestem, panicum, and tickclover.

The Centenary series consists of well drained or somewhat excessively drained soils in marine sediments. The native vegetation includes longleaf and loblolly pine, blackjack, turkey, and post oaks.

The Leon series consists of very deep, poorly and very poorly drained, moderately to moderately slowly permeable soils on upland flats, depressions, stream terraces and tidal areas. They formed in sandy marine sediments of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain. The natural vegetation consists of longleaf pine, slash pine, water oak, myrtle, with a thick undergrowth of saw palmetto, running oak, fetterbush and other lyionia, inkberry (gallberry), chalky bluestem, creeping bluestem and pineland threeawn (wiregrass). In depressions, the vegetation is dominated by bracken fern, smooth sumac and swamp cyrilla are common.

The Meadowbrook series consists of very deep, poorly drained and very poorly drained, moderately slowly permeable soils on flats and small stream flood plains of the Southern Coastal Plain and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast Flatwoods. They formed in thick beds of sandy and loamy marine sediments. Vegetation includes mixed stands of slash pine, loblolly pine, and longleaf pine with live, laurel, and water oaks, black gum, sweetgum, red maple and cypress in wetter areas. The understory consists dominantly of gallberry, wax myrtle, wiregrass, pitcher plants, and bracken fern.

The Ortega series consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils that formed in a sandy deposit on marine terraces. These soils are on nearly level to strongly sloping upland landscapes. Natural vegetation consists of second growth slash and longleaf pine, turkey and blackjack oak, and scattered saw palmetto with an understory of pineland threeawn, low panicums, and grassleaf goldaster.

The Osier series consists of very deep, poorly drained, rapidly permeable soils on flood plains or low stream terraces. They formed in sandy alluvium. The vegetation consists primarily of sweetgum, blackgum, water oak, red maple, swamp holly, bay, slash pine, and longleaf pine. The understory vegetation is mostly briars, vine, canes, myrtle, and gallberry.

The Penney series consists of very deep, excessively drained, rapidly permeable soils on uplands. They formed in thick beds of sandy eolian or marine deposits. The natural vegetation is dominantly turkey oak, blue jack oak, post oak, scrub live oak, and longleaf pine. The understory is chiefly a sparse growth of pineland threeawn, indiangrass, creeping bluestem, and panicums.

The Plummer series consists of very deep, poorly or very poorly drained soils found in low depressions. Native vegetation consist of mixed stands of slash, loblolly, and longleaf pine with swamp tupelo and bald cypress and an understory of gallberry, wax myrtle, southern bayberry, wiregrass, pitcher plants, and bracken fern.

The Rutlege series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils in flats, depressions, and floodplains. Native vegetation consists of black gum, Carolina ash, red maple, sweet bay, tulip popular, water oak, pin oak, pond pine, slash pine, and loblolly pine. The understory is huckleberry, wax myrtle, green briar, grasses and sedges. Some ponded areas consist of entirely grasses and sedges.

The Sapelo series consists of very deep, somewhat poorly and poorly drained soils. The native vegetation is longleaf pine, loblolly pine, pond pine, black gum, and water oak. Understory plants are gallberry, saw tooth palmetto, and dwarf huckleberry.

# ADDENDUM 3 – Species List

LISTED SPECIES				
Scientific Name	Common Name	FFWCC	FDACS	FNAI
INVERTEBRATES				
Crayfish				
Procambarus pictus	Black Creek Crayfish	SSC		
Dragonflies				
Gomphus cavillaris	Sandhill Clubtail			G4
Progomphus alachuensis	Tawny Sanddragon			S3 G3
REPTILES				
Gopherus polyphemus AVES	Gopher Tortoise	Т		S3 G3
Elanoides forficatus	Swallow-tailed Kite			S2 G5
Passerina ciris	Painted Bunting			S3 G5
MAMMALS				
Ursus americanus floridanus	Florida black bear			S2 G5 T2
PLANTS				
Asclepias curtissii	Curtiss' Milkweed		E	
	Southern Milkweed;			
Asclepias viridula	Green Milkweed		Т	S2 G2
Athyrium filix-femina asplenioides	Southern Lady Fern		Т	
	Purpledisk			
	Honeycombhead;			
Balduina atropurpurea	Purple Balduina		E	S1 G2
Calydorea caelestina	Bartram's Ixia		E	S2
Carex chapmannii	Chapman's Sedge		Т	S3
	Pineland Butterfly			
	Pea; Sand Butterfly			
Centrosema arenicola	Pea		E	S2 G2Q
	Florida			
Ctenium floridanum	Toothachegrass		E	S3 G2
Epidendrum conopseum	Green-Fly Orchid		С	
Garberia heterophylla	Garberia		Т	
	Chapman's			
Gymnopogon chapmanianus	Skeletongrass			S3 G3
Habenaria nivea	Snowy Orchid		Т	
Hartwrightia floridana	Hartwrightia		Т	S2 G2
	Lakeside Sunflower;			
	Flatwoods			
Helianthus carnosus	Sunflower		E	S1S2 G1G2
	Catesby's Lily; Pine			
Lilium catesbaei	Lily		Т	
Linum westii	West's Flax		E	S2 G2
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinalflower		т	
	Florida Milkvine;			
Matelea floridana	Florida Spiny Pod		E	S2 G2

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Scientific Name	Common Name	FFWCC	FDACS	FNAI
	Trailing Milkvine;			
Matelea pubiflora	Sandhill Spiny Pod		E	
Osmunda cinnamomea	Cinnamon Fern		С	
Osmunda regalis spectabilis	Royal Fern		С	
	Blueflower			
Pinguicula caerulea	Butterwort		Т	
	Yellow Butterwort;			
	Yellow-Flowered			
Pinguicula lutea	Butterwort		Т	
	White Fringed			
Platanthera blephariglottis conspicua	Orchid		Т	
	Yellow Fringed			
Platanthera ciliaris	Orchid		Т	
	Crested Yellow			
	Orchid; Crested			
Platanthera cristata	Fringed Orchid		Т	
	Southern Tubercled			
	Orchid; Palegreen			
	Orchid; Gypsy-			
Platanthera flava	Spikes		Т	
Pogonia bifaria	Fernald's Pogonia		Т	
	Rose Pogonia;			
Pogonia ophioglossoides	Snakemouth Orchid		Т	
	Giant Orchid; Non-			
Pteroglossaspis ecristata	Crested Eulophia		Т	S2 G2G3
	Florida			
Pycnanthemum floridanum	Mountainmint		Т	S3 G3
Rhapidophyllum hystrix	Needle Palm		С	
	Sweet Pinxter			
	Azalea; Mountain			
Rhododendron canescens	Azalea		С	
	Sweet Pinxter			
	Azalea; Mountain			
Rhododendron canescens	Azalea		С	
	Shiny Coneflower;			
Rudbeckia nitida	St. John's Susan		E	S2 G3
Sarracenia minor	Hooded Pitcherplant		Т	
Schoenolirion croceum	Yellow Sunnybell		E	S2 G4
	Buckthorn Bully;			
	Gopherwood			
Sideroxylon lycioides	Buckthorn		E	S2 G5
	Diverseleaf			
Verbesina heterophylla	Crownbeard			S2 G2
	Treat's Zephyrlily;			
Zephyranthes atamasca treatiae	Treat's Rainlily*		Т	

EXOTIC SPECIES		FLEPPC
Broussonetia papyrifera	Paper Mulberry*	Class II
Imperata cylindrica	Cogongrass*	Class I
Panicum repens	TORPEDO GRASS*	Class I
Sapium sebiferum	Popcorntree; Chinese Tallowtree*	Class I
Sesbania punicea	Rattlebox*	Class II
Wisteria sinensis	Chinese Wisteria*	Class II

# **COMPREHENSIVE SPECIES LIST**

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acalypha gracilens	Slender Threeseed Mercury
Acanthospermum australe	Paraguay Starburr
Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Aeschynomene viscidula	Sticky Jointvetch
Aesculus pavia	Red Buckeye
Agalinis filifolia	Seminole False Foxglove
Agalinis sp.	
Agarista populifolia	Florida Hobbblebush; Pipestem
Ageratina jucunda	Hammock Snakeroot
Agrostis hyemalis	Ticklegrass; Spring Bentgrass
Aletris lutea	Yellow Colicroot
Aletris obovata	Southern Colicroot
Allium canadense	Meadow Garlic
Alnus serrulata	Hazel Alder
Alysicarpus ovalifolius	False Moneywort; Alyce Clover
Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Common Ragweed
Amorpha fruticosa	Bastard Indigobush; False Indigobush
Amsonia ciliata	Fringed Bluestar
Andropogon brachystachyus	Shortspike Bluestem
Andropogon glomeratus	Bushy Bluestem
Andropogon glomeratus glaucopsis	Purple Bluestem
Andropogon glomeratus pumilus	Bushy Bluestem
Andropogon gyrans	Elliott's Bluestem
Andropogon gyrans stenophyllus	Elliott's Bluestem
Andropogon longiberbis	Hairy Bluestem
Andropogon ternarius	Splitbeard Bluestem
Andropogon virginicus decipiens	Broomsedge Bluestem
Andropogon virginicus glaucus	Chalky Bluestem
Anthaenantia rufa	Purple Silkyscale
Anthaenantia villosa	Green Silkyscale
Apios americana	Groundnut
Apteria aphylla	Nodding Nixie

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Aralia spinosa Argemone albiflora Aristida condensata Aristida purpurascens tenuispica Aristida purpurascens virgata Aristida simpliciflora Aristida spiciformis Aristida stricta beyrichiana Aristolochia serpentaria Arnoglossum floridanum Arundinaria gigantea Asclepias cinerea Asclepias connivens Asclepias curtissii Asclepias feayi Asclepias humistrata Asclepias lanceolata Asclepias pedicellata Asclepias perennis Asclepias tomentosa Asclepias tuberosa Asclepias verticillata Asclepias viridula Asimina incana Asimina obovata Asimina parviflora Asimina pygmea Asimina sp. Asplenium platyneuron Astragalus obcordatus Athyrium filix-femina asplenioides Aureolaria pedicularia pectinata Aureolaria virginica Axonopus fissifolius Axonopus furcatus Baccharis glomeruliflora Baccharis halimifolia Bacopa caroliniana Bacopa monnieri Balduina angustifolia Balduina atropurpurea Balduina uniflora Baptisia lanceolata

**Devil's Walkingstick** Bluestem Pricklypoppy Big Threeawn; Piedmont Threeawn Hillsboro Threeawn Arrowfeather Threeawn Southern Threeawn; Chapman Threeawn **Bottlebrush Threeawn** Wiregrass Virginia Snakeroot Florida Indian Plantain Switchcane Carolina Milkweed Largeflower Milkweed Curtiss' Milkweed Florida Milkweed Pinewoods Milkweed Fewflower Milkweed Savannah Milkweed Swamp Milkweed Velvetleaf Milkweed Butterflyweed; Butterfly Milkweed Whorled Milkweed Southern Milkweed; Green Milkweed Woolly Pawpaw; Polecat Bush **Bigflower Pawpaw Smallflower Pawpaw Dwarf Pawpaw** Ebony Spleenwort Florida Milkvetch Southern Lady Fern Fernleaf Yellow False Foxglove Downy Yellow False Foxglove

Fernleaf Yellow False Foxglove Downy Yellow False Foxglove Common Carpetgrass Big Carpetgrass Silverling GROUNDSEL TREE; SEA MYRTLE Lemon Bacopa; Blue Waterhyssop Herb-Of-Grace Coastalplain Honeycombhead Purpledisk Honeycombhead; Purple Balduina Oneflower Honeycombhead Gopherweed

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Baptisia lecontei Bartonia paniculata Bartonia verna Bartonia virginica Bejaria racemosa Berchemia scandens Berlandiera pumila Berlandiera subacaulis Bidens alba **Bidens** mitis Bigelowia nudata Bignonia capreolata Boehmeria cylindrica Botrychium biternatum Briza minor Broussonetia papyrifera Buchnera americana Bulbostylis barbata Bulbostylis ciliatifolia Bulbostylis stenophylla Bulbostylis warei Burmannia biflora Burmannia capitata Callicarpa americana Callisia graminea Callisia rosea Calopogon barbatus Calopogon pallidus Calopogon tuberosus Calydorea caelestina Calystegia sepium limnophila Carex atlantica Carex atlantica capillacea Carex bromoides Carex chapmannii Carex comosa Carex crebriflora Carex dasycarpa Carex debilis Carex digitalis Carex elliottii Carex fissa aristata Carex glaucescens

Pineland Wild Indigo Twining Screwstem White Screwstem Yellow Screwstem Tarflower Alabama Supplejack; Rattan Vine Soft Greeneyes Florida Greeneyes Romerillo Smallfruit Beggarticks Pineland Rayless Goldenrod Crossvine False Nettle; Bog Hemp Southern Grape-Fern Little Quakinggrass Paper Mulberry American Bluehearts Watergrass Capillary Hairsedge Sandyfield Hairsedge Ware's Hairsedge Bluethread Southern Bluethread American Beautyberry Grassleaf Roseling Piedmont Roseling Bearded Grasspink Pale Grasspink **Tuberous Grasspink** Bartram's Ixia Hedge False Bindweed Atlantic Sedge Prickly Bog Sedge **Bromelike Sedge** Chapman's Sedge Longhair Sedge Coastalplain Sedge Sandywoods Sedge White-Edge Sedge Slender Woodland Sedge Elliott's Sedge Hammock Sedge **Clustered Sedge** 

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Carex godfreyi Carex lonchocarpa Carex longii Carex lupuliformis Carex paeninsulae Carex stipata Carex striata Carex styloflexa Carex verrucosa Carphephorus corymbosus Carphephorus odoratissimus Carphephorus paniculatus Carpinus caroliniana Carya glabra Castanea pumila Ceanothus microphyllus *Cenchrus echinatus* Cenchrus spinifex Centrosema arenicola Centrosema virginianum Cephalanthus occidentalis Cerastium glomeratum Ceratiola ericoides Cercis canadensis Chamaecrista fasciculata Chamaecrista nictitans aspera Chamaesyce hirta Chamaesyce hyssopifolia Chamaesyce maculata Chapmannia floridana Chaptalia tomentosa Chasmanthium laxum Chasmanthium laxum sessiliflorum Chasmanthium nitidum Chionanthus virginicus Chrysopsis gossypina Chrysopsis mariana Chrysopsis scabrella Cicuta maculata Cirsium horridulum Clematis reticulata Clitoria mariana Cnidoscolus stimulosus

Godfrey's Sedge Southern Longsedge Long's Sedge False Hop Sedge Peninsula Sedge AWLFRUIT SEDGE Walter's Sedge Bent Sedge Warty Sedge Coastalplain Chaffhead; Florida Paintbrush Vanillaleaf Hairy Chaffhead American Hornbeam; Bluebeech Pignut Hickory Chinquapin Littleleaf Buckbrush Southern Sandbur Coastal Sandbur Pineland Butterfly Pea; Sand Butterfly Pea Spurred Butterfly Pea Common Buttonbush Mouse-Ear Chickweed; Sticky Chickweed Florida Rosemary; Sand Heath Eastern Redbud Partridge Pea Sensitive Pea Pillpod Sandmat Hyssopleaf Sandmat Spotted Sandmat Florida Alicia Woolly Sunbonnets; Pineland Daisy Slender Woodoats Longleaf Woodoats Shiny Woodoats White Fringetree; Old-Mans's Beard Cottony Goldenaster Maryland Goldenaster Coastalplain Goldenaster Spotted Water Hemlock Purple Thistle Netleaf Leather-Flower **Atlantic Pigeonwings** Tread-Softly; Finger-Rot

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Commelina erecta Commelina virginica Conyza canadensis Coreopsis gladiata Cornus asperifolia Cornus florida Cornus foemina Crataegus crus-galli Crataegus michauxii Crataegus uniflora Crataegus viridis Croptilon divaricatum Crotalaria lanceolata Crotalaria rotundifolia Crotalaria spectabilis *Croton argyranthemus* Croton capitatus Croton glandulosus Croton michauxii Ctenium aromaticum Ctenium floridanum Cuphea carthagenensis Cuscuta compacta Cyclospermum leptophyllum Cynodon dactylon Cyperus compressus Cyperus croceus Cyperus distinctus Cyperus filiculmis Cyperus flavescens Cyperus haspan Cyperus lanceolatus Cyperus lecontei Cyperus odoratus Cyperus polystachyos Cyperus retrorsus Cyperus strigosus *Cyperus surinamensis* Cyperus virens Cyrilla racemiflora Dalea carnea Dalea pinnata Decumaria barbara

Whitemouth Dayflower Virginia Dayflower CANADIAN HORSEWEED Coastalplain Tickseed Roughleaf Dogwood Flowering Dogwood Swamp Dogwood; Stiff Dogwood Cockspur Hawthorn Michaux's Hawthorn **Dwarf Hawthorn** Green Hawthorn Slender Scratchdaisv Lanceleaf Rattlebox Rabbitbells Showy Rattlebox Silver Croton; Healing Croton Woolly Croton; Hogwort Vente Conmigo Rushfoil; Michaux's Croton Toothachegrass Florida Toothachegrass **Colombian Waxweed** Compact Dodder Marsh Parsley Bermudagrass Poorland Flatsedge Baldwin's Flatsedge Swamp Flatsedge Wiry Flatsedge Yellow Flatsedge Haspan Flatsedge Epiphytic Flatsedge Leconte's Flatsedge Fragrant Flatsedge MANYSPIKE FLATSEDGE Pinebarren Flatsedge Strawcolored Flatsedge Tropical Flatsedge Green Flatsedge Titi Whitetassels Summer Farewell Cowitch Vine; Climbing Hydrangea; Woodvamp

Descurainia pinnata Desmodium ciliare Desmodium floridanum Desmodium incanum Desmodium marilandicum Desmodium paniculatum Desmodium strictum Desmodium tortuosum Desmodium triflorum Dichanthelium aciculare Dichanthelium acuminatum Dichanthelium commutatum Dichanthelium ensifolium unciphyllum Dichanthelium erectifolium Dichanthelium laxiflorum Dichanthelium leucothrix Dichanthelium ovale Dichanthelium portoricense Dichanthelium scabriusculum Dichanthelium scoparium Dichanthelium sphaerocarpon Dichanthelium strigosum glabrescens Dichanthelium strigosum leucoblepharis Dichondra carolinensis Digitaria ciliaris Digitaria cognata Digitaria filiformis Digitaria serotina Diodia teres Diodia virginiana Diospyros virginiana Drosera brevifolia Drosera capillaris Dryopteris ludoviciana Dyschoriste oblongifolia Echinochloa walteri Echinodorus tenellus Eclipta prostrata Eleocharis baldwinii Eleocharis flavescens Eleocharis geniculata Eleocharis vivipara Elephantopus elatus

Western Tansymustard Hairv Small-Leaf Ticktrefoil Florida Ticktrefoil Zarzabacoa Comun Smooth Ticktrefoil Panicled Ticktrefoil Pinebarren Ticktrefoil Dixie Ticktrefoil Threeflower Ticktrefoil Needleleaf Witchgrass **Tapered Witchgrass** Variable Witchgrass Cypress Witchgrass **Erectleaf Witchgrass Openflower Witchgrass** Rough Witchgrass Eggleaf Witchgrass Hemlock Witchgrass Woolly Witchgrass Velvet Witchgrass **Roundseed Witchgrass** Roughhair Witchgrass Roughhair Witchgrass **Carolina Ponysfoot** Southern Crabgrass Carolina Crabgrass Slender Crabgrass; Shaggy Crabgrass Blanket Crabgrass; Dwarf Crabgrass Poor Joe; Rough Buttonweed Virginia Buttonweed **Common Persimmon** Dwarf Sundew Pink Sundew Southern Wood Fern **Oblongleaf Twinflower; Oblongleaf Snakeherb Coast Cockspur** Dwarf Burrhead; Mudbabies False Daisy Baldwin's Spikerush; Roadgrass Yellow Spikerush; Pale Spikerush Canada Spikerush Viviparous Spikerush Tall Elephantsfoot

Elephantopus nudatus Eleusine indica Epidendrum conopseum Eragrostis spectabilis Eragrostis virginica Erechtites hieraciifolius Eremochloa ophiuroides Erigeron strigosus Erigeron vernus Eriocaulon compressum Eriocaulon decangulare Eriocaulon lineare Eriocaulon ravenelii Eriochloa michauxii Eriogonum tomentosum Eryngium aromaticum Eryngium baldwinii *Eryngium prostratum* Eryngium yuccifolium Erythrina herbacea Euonymus americanus Eupatorium album Eupatorium compositifolium Eupatorium leptophyllum Eupatorium leucolepis Eupatorium linearifolium Eupatorium mohrii Eupatorium perfoliatum Eupatorium pilosum Eupatorium rotundifolium Eupatorium serotinum Euphorbia curtisii Euphorbia exserta Euphorbia inundata Eustachys petraea Euthamia caroliniana *Fimbristylis autumnalis* Fimbristylis caroliniana Fimbristylis puberula *Fimbristylis schoenoides* Fraxinus caroliniana Froelichia floridana Fuirena breviseta

Smooth Elephantsfoot Indian Goosegrass **Green-Fly Orchid** Purple Lovegrass **Coastal Lovegrass** American Burnweed; Fireweed Centipedegrass Prairie Fleabane Early Whitetop Fleabane Flattened Pipewort **Tenangle Pipewort** Narrow Pipewort Ravenel's Pipewort Michaux's Cupgrass Dogtongue Wild Buckwheat Fragrant Eryngo Baldwin's Eryngo Creeping Eryngo Button Rattlesnakemaster; Button Eryngo Coralbean; Cherokee Bean American Strawberrybush White Thoroughwort Yankeeweed Falsefennel Justiceweed Waxy Thoroughwort Mohr's Thoroughwort **Common Boneset** Rough Boneset Roundleaf Thoroughwort; False Horehound Lateflowering Thoroughwort Curtis' Spurge **Coastal Sand Spurge** Florida Pineland Spurge Pinewoods Fingergrass Slender Flattop Goldenrod Slender Fimbry Carolina Fimbry Hairy Fimbry Ditch Fimbry Carolina Ash; Water Ash; Pop Ash Cottonweed: Plains Snakecotton Saltmarsh Umbrellasedge

Fuirena pumila Fuirena scirpoidea Gaillardia aestivalis Galactia elliottii Galactia erecta Galactia mollis Galactia regularis Galactia volubilis Galium hispidulum Galium pilosum Galium tinctorium Gamochaeta purpurea Garberia heterophylla Gaura angustifolia Gaylussacia dumosa Gaylussacia frondosa tomentosa Gelsemium sempervirens Geranium carolinianum Gomphrena serrata Gordonia lasianthus Gratiola hispida Gratiola pilosa Gratiola ramosa Gymnopogon brevifolius Gymnopogon chapmanianus Habenaria floribunda Habenaria nivea Habenaria quinqueseta Habenaria repens Hamamelis virginiana Hartwrightia floridana Helenium amarum Helenium flexuosum Helenium pinnatifidum *Helianthemum corymbosum* Helianthemum georgianum Helianthus angustifolius Helianthus carnosus Helianthus floridanus Helianthus radula Helianthus strumosus *Heteropogon melanocarpus* Heterotheca subaxillaris

Dwarf Umbrellasedge Southern Umbrellasedge Lanceleaf Blanketflower Elliott's Milkpea Erect Milkpea Soft Milkpea Eastern Milkpea Downy Milkpea Coastal Bedstraw Hairy Bedstraw Stiff Marsh Bedstraw SPOONLEAF PURPLE EVERLASTING; SPOONLEAF CUDWEED Garberia Southern Beeblossom Dwarf Huckleberry Blue Huckleberry Yellow Jessamine; Carolina Jessamine Carolina Cranesbill PROSTRATE GLOBE AMARANTH; ARRASA CON TODO Loblolly Bay Rough Hedgehyssop Shaggy Hedgehyssop Branched Hedgehyssop Shortleaf Skeletongrass Chapman's Skeletongrass Toothpetal False Reinorchid; Mignonette Orchid Snowy Orchid Longhorn False Reinorchid; Michaux's Orchid Waterspider False Reinorchid American Witchhazel Hartwrightia Spanish Daisy; Bitterweed **Purplehead Sneezeweed** Southeastern Sneezeweed Pinebarren Frostweed **Georgia Frostweed** Narrowleaf Sunflower; Swamp Sunflower Lakeside Sunflower; Flatwoods Sunflower Florida Sunflower Stiff Sunflower Paleleaf Woodland Sunflower Sweet Tanglehead Camphorweed

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*Hibiscus aculeatus Hibiscus coccineus Hibiscus grandiflorus Hibiscus moscheutos* Hieracium gronovii *Houstonia* procumbens *Hydrocotyle bonariensis* Hydrocotyle umbellata *Hypericum brachyphyllum* Hypericum canadense Hypericum cistifolium *Hypericum crux-andreae* Hypericum fasciculatum Hypericum gentianoides Hypericum hypericoides Hypericum mutilum Hypericum myrtifolium Hypericum setosum *Hypericum* suffruticosum Hypericum tenuifolium Hypericum tetrapetalum Hypoxis curtissii Hypoxis juncea Hypoxis wrightii Hyptis alata Hyptis mutabilis Ilex ambigua Ilex cassine Ilex cassine myrtifolia llex coriacea Ilex glabra Ilex opaca Ilex opaca arenicola Ilex vomitoria Imperata cylindrica Indigofera hirsuta Indigofera spicata Ipomoea cordatotriloba Ipomopsis rubra Iris hexagona Iris virginica Itea virginica Iva microcephala

Comfortroot Scarlet Rosemallow Swamp Rosemallow **Crimsoneyed Rosemallow** Queen-Devil Innocence: Roundleaf Bluet Largeleaf Marshpennywort Manyflower Marshpennywort Coastalplain St.John's-Wort Lesser Canadian St.John's-Wort Roundpod St.John's-Wort St.Peter's-Wort Sandweed: Peelbark St.John's-Wort Pineweeds; Orangegrass St.Andrew's-Cross Dwarf St.John's-Wort Myrtleleaf St.John's-Wort Hairy St.John's-Wort Pineland St.John's-Wort ATLANTIC ST.JOHN'S-WORT Fourpetal St.John's-Wort **Common Yellow Stargrass** Fringed Yellow Stargrass Bristleseed Yellow Stargrass Clustered Bushmint; Musky Mint **Tropical Bushmint** Carolina Holly; Sand Holly Dahoon Myrtle Dahoon Large Gallberry; Sweet Gallberry Inkberry; Gallberry American Holly Scrub Holly Yaupon Cogongrass Hairy Indigo **Trailing Indigo** Tievine Standingcypress; Spanish Larkspur Dixie Iris; Prairie Iris VIRGINIA IRIS; BLUE FLAG IRIS Virginia Willow; Virginia Sweetspire Piedmont Marshelder

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Juncus acuminatus Juncus bufonius Juncus canadensis Juncus coriaceus Juncus dichotomus Juncus effusus solutus Juncus elliottii Juncus marginatus Juncus megacephalus Juncus repens Juncus scirpoides Juncus validus Justicia ovata Kalmia hirsuta Kosteletzkya pentacarpos Krigia virginica Kummerowia striata Kyllinga brevifolia Kyllinga pumila Kyllinga squamulata Lachnanthes caroliana Lachnocaulon anceps Lachnocaulon minus Lactuca floridana Lactuca graminifolia Lechea deckertii Lechea mucronata Lechea sessiliflora Leersia hexandra Lepidium virginicum Lespedeza angustifolia Lespedeza hirta Leucothoe axillaris Leucothoe racemosa Liatris elegans Liatris gracilis Liatris pauciflora Liatris spicata Liatris tenuifolia Licania michauxii Lilium catesbaei Linaria canadensis Linaria floridana

**Tapertip Rush Toad Rush** Canadian Rush Leathery Rush Forked Rush Soft Rush Bog Rush; Elliott's Rush Shore Rush; Grassleaf Rush **Bighead Rush** Lesser Creeping Rush Needlepod Rush Roundhead Rush Looseflower Waterwillow Wicky; Hairy Laurel VIRGINIA SALTMARSH MALLOW Virginia Dwarfdandelion Japanese Clover Shortleaf Spikesedge Low Spikesedge Asian Spikesedge Carolina Redroot Whitehead Bogbutton Small's Bogbutton Woodland Lettuce **Grassleaf Lettuce Deckert's Pinweed** Hairy Pinweed Pineland Pinweed Southern Cutgrass Virginia Pepperweed Narrowleaf Lespedeza Hairy Lespedeza Coastal Doghobble Swamp Doghobble Pinkscale Gayfeather Slender Gayfeather Fewflower Gayfeather **Dense Gayfeather** Shortleaf Gayfeather Gopher Apple Catesby's Lily; Pine Lily Canadian Toadflax Apalachicola Toadflax

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Lindernia crustacea Linum floridanum Linum westii Liquidambar styraciflua Liriodendron tulipifera Lobelia cardinalis Lobelia glandulosa Lobelia paludosa Lobelia puberula Lolium perenne Lonicera sempervirens Ludwigia decurrens Ludwigia grandiflora Ludwigia leptocarpa Ludwigia linearis Ludwigia maritima Ludwigia microcarpa Ludwigia octovalvis Ludwigia palustris Ludwiqia peruviana Ludwigia pilosa Ludwigia repens Ludwigia suffruticosa Ludwigia virgata Lupinus diffusus Lupinus perennis Lupinus villosus Lycopodiella alopecuroides Lycopodiella appressa Lycopodiella caroliniana Lycopodiella prostrata Lycopus amplectens Lycopus rubellus Lygodesmia aphylla Lyonia ferruginea Lyonia fruticosa Lyonia ligustrina foliosiflora Lyonia lucida Lyonia mariana Magnolia grandiflora Magnolia virginiana Marshallia graminifolia Matelea floridana

Malaysian False Pimpernel Florida Yellow Flax West's Flax Sweetgum **Tuliptree; Yellow Poplar** Cardinalflower Glade Lobelia White Lobelia Downy Lobelia Italian Ryegrass Coral Honeysuckle; Trumpet Honeysuckle Wingleaf Primrosewillow Largeflower Primrosewillow Anglestem Primrosewillow Narrowleaf Primrosewillow Seaside Primrosewillow Smallfruit Primrosewillow Mexican Primrosewillow Marsh Seedbox Peruvian Primrosewillow Hairy Primrosewillow Creeping Primrosewillow Shrubby Primrosewillow Savannah Primrosewillow Skyblue Lupine Sundial Lupine Lady Lupine Foxtail Club-Moss Southern Club-Moss; Southern Bog Club-Moss Slender Club-Moss Feather-Stem Club-Moss; Harper's Club-Moss **Clasping Waterhorehound** Taperleaf Waterhorehound Rose-Rush Rusty Staggerbush Coastalplain Staggerbush Maleberry Fetterbush **Piedmont Staggerbush** Southern Magnolia Sweetbay **GRASSLEAF BARBARA'S BUTTONS** Florida Milkvine; Florida Spiny Pod

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Matelea pubiflora Mecardonia acuminata Medicago lupulina Melanthera nivea Melica mutica Melilotus albus Melinis repens Melothria pendula Micranthemum glomeratum Micranthemum umbrosum Micromeria brownei pilosiuscula Mikania scandens Mimosa quadrivalvis angustata Mimosa quadrivalvis floridana Mimosa strigillosa Mitchella repens Mitreola petiolata Mitreola sessilifolia Monarda punctata Monotropa uniflora Muhlenbergia capillaris trichopodes Murdannia nudiflora Myrica caroliniensis Myrica cerifera Myriophyllum aquaticum Nasturtium officinale Neptunia pubescens Nothoscordum bivalve Nuphar advena Nymphaea odorata Nymphoides aquatica Nyssa ogeche Nyssa sylvatica Nyssa sylvatica biflora Oclemena reticulata Oenothera biennis Oenothera fruticosa Oenothera laciniata Oldenlandia uniflora Onosmodium virginianum Ophioglossum petiolatum Opuntia humifusa Orobanche minor

Trailing Milkvine; Sandhill Spiny Pod Axilflower Black Medick **Snow Squarestem** Twoflower Melicgrass White Sweetclover ROSE NATALGRASS **Creeping Cucumber** Manatee Mudflower Shade Mudflower Browne's Savory Climbing Hempvine Sensitive Brier Florida Sensitive Brier Powderpuff Partridgeberry; Twinberry Lax Hornpod Swamp Hornpod Spotted Beebalm Indianpipe Cutover Muhly Nakedstem Dewflower Evergreen Bayberry; Northern Bayberry Southern Bayberry; Wax Myrtle Parrot Feather Watermilfoil European Watercress **Tropical Puff** Crowpoison; False Garlic Spatterdock; Yellow Pondlily American White Waterlily **Big Floatingheart Ogeechee Tupelo** Blackgum Swamp Tupelo Whitetop Aster; Pinebarren Aster **Common Eveningprimrose** Sundrops; Narrowleaf Eveningprimrose Cutleaf Eveningprimrose **Clustered Mille Graines** False Gromwell; Wild Job's Tears Stalked Adder's Tongue Pricklypear Hellroot

Orontium aquaticum Osmanthus americanus Osmunda cinnamomea Osmunda regalis spectabilis Oxalis corniculata Oxalis violacea Oxypolis filiformis Palafoxia integrifolia Panicum anceps Panicum dichotomiflorum Panicum hemitomon Panicum hians Panicum longifolium Panicum repens Panicum rigidulum Panicum verrucosum Panicum virgatum Paronychia baldwinii Paronychia herniarioides Paronychia patula Parthenocissus quinquefolia Paspalum conjugatum Paspalum floridanum Paspalum laeve Paspalum nicorae Paspalum notatum saurae Paspalum plicatulum Paspalum setaceum Paspalum urvillei Passiflora lutea Pectis prostrata Pedicularis canadensis Pediomelum canescens Peltandra sagittifolia Peltandra virginica Penstemon multiflorus Persea borbonia Persea palustris Phalaris angusta Phalaris canariensis Phalaris caroliniana Phlox amoena Phlox drummondii

Goldenclub; Neverwet Wild Olive: American Devilwood Cinnamon Fern Royal Fern Common Yellow Woodsorrel; Creeping Woodsorrel Violet Woodsorrel Water Cowbane Coastalplain Palafox Beaked Panicum Fall Panicgrass Maidencane Gaping Panicum Long-Leaved Panic Grass TORPEDO GRASS Redtop Panicum Warty Panicgrass **Switchgrass** Baldwin's Nailwort Coastalplain Nailwort Pineland Nailwort Virginia Creeper; Woodbine Sour Paspalum; Hilograss Florida Paspalum **Field Paspalum Brunswickgrass** Bahiagrass **Brownseed Paspalum** Thin Paspalum Vaseygrass **Yellow Passionflower** Spreading Cinchweed Canadian Lousewort Buckroot White Arrow Arum; Spoonflower Green Arrow Arum Manyflower Beardtongue Red Bay Swamp Bay **Timothy Canarygrass Common Canarygrass** Carolina Canarygrass Hairy Phlox Annual Phlox

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

Phoebanthus grandiflorus Phoradendron leucarpum Photinia pyrifolia Phyla nodiflora Phyllanthus urinaria Physalis arenicola Physalis pubescens Physalis walteri Physostegia purpurea Phytolacca americana Pinguicula caerulea Pinguicula lutea Pinguicula pumila Pinus clausa Pinus elliottii Pinus palustris Pinus serotina Pinus taeda Piptochaetium avenaceum *Piptochaetium avenacioides* Piriqueta cistoides caroliniana Pityopsis graminifolia Plantago lanceolata Plantago sparsiflora Plantago virginica Platanthera blephariglottis conspicua Platanthera chapmanii Platanthera ciliaris Platanthera cristata Platanthera flava Pleopeltis polypodioides michauxiana Pluchea baccharis Pluchea foetida Pluchea longifolia Pluchea odorata Pogonia bifaria Pogonia divaricata Pogonia ophioglossoides Poinsettia cyathophora Polanisia tenuifolia Polygala cruciata Polygala cymosa Polygala incarnata

Florida False Sunflower Oak Mistletoe Red Chokeberry Turkey Tangle Fogfruit; Capeweed Chamber Bitter Cypresshead Groundcherry Husk Tomato Walter's Groundcherry Eastern False Dragonhead American Pokeweed **Blueflower Butterwort** Yellow Butterwort: Yellow-Flowered Butterwort Small Butterwort Sand Pine Slash Pine Longleaf Pine Pond Pine Loblolly Pine Blackseed Needlegrass Florida Needlegrass **Pitted Stripeseed** Narrowleaf Silkgrass English Plantain; Narrowleaf Plantain Pineland Plantain Virginia Plantain; Southern Plantain White Fringed Orchid **Chapman's Fringed Orchid** Yellow Fringed Orchid Crested Yellow Orchid; Crested Fringed Orchid Southern Tubercled Orchid; Palegreen Orchid; Gypsy-Spikes **Resurrection Fern Rosy Camphorweed** Stinking Camphorweed Longleaf Camphorweed Sweetscent Fernald's Pogonia Rosebud Orchid; Spreading Pogonia Rose Pogonia; Snakemouth Orchid Paintedleaf: Fire-On-The-Mountain Slenderleaf Clammyweed Drumheads Tall Pinebarren Milkwort Procession Flower

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

Polygala lutea Polygala mariana Polygala nana Polygala ramosa Polygala setacea Polygala violacea Polygonella gracilis Polygonum hydropiperoides Polygonum punctatum Polygonum setaceum Polypogon monspeliensis *Polypremum procumbens* Polystichum acrostichoides Pontederia cordata Portulaca oleracea Proserpinaca palustris Proserpinaca pectinata Prunus americana Prunus caroliniana Prunus serotina Prunus umbellata Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium Pteridium aquilinum pseudocaudatum Pterocaulon pycnostachyum Pteroglossaspis ecristata Ptilimnium capillaceum Pycnanthemum floridanum Pycnanthemum nudum Pyrrhopappus carolinianus Quercus chapmanii Quercus geminata Quercus incana Quercus laevis Quercus laurifolia Quercus margaretta Quercus michauxii Quercus minima Quercus myrtifolia Quercus nigra Quercus virginiana Rhapidophyllum hystrix Rhexia alifanus Rhexia lutea

Orange Milkwort Maryland Milkwort Candyroot Low Pinebarren Milkwort Coastalplain Milkwort SHOWY MILKWORT Tall Jointweed Mild Waterpepper; Swamp Smartweed **Dotted Smartweed Bog Smartweed** Rabbitsfootgrass Rustweed; Juniperleaf Christmas Fern Pickerelweed Little Hogweed Marsh Mermaidweed **Combleaf Mermaidweed** American Plum Carolina Laurelcherry Black Cherry Flatwoods Plum; Hog Plum Sweet Everlasting; Rabbit Tobacco Tailed Bracken Blackroot Giant Orchid; Non-Crested Eulophia Mock Bishopsweed; Herbwilliam Florida Mountainmint Coastalplain Mountainmint Carolina Desertchicory Chapman's Oak Sand Live Oak Bluejack Oak Turkey Oak Laurel Oak; Diamond Oak Sand Post Oak Basket Oak; Swamp Chestnut Oak Dwarf Live Oak Myrtle Oak Water Oak Live Oak Needle Palm Savannah Meadowbeauty Yellow Meadowbeauty

Rhexia mariana Rhexia nashii Rhexia nuttallii Rhexia petiolata Rhododendron canescens Rhododendron viscosum Rhus copallinum Rhynchosia cinerea Rhynchosia difformis Rhynchosia michauxii Rhynchosia reniformis Rhynchospora baldwinii Rhynchospora caduca Rhynchospora cephalantha Rhynchospora ciliaris Rhynchospora colorata Rhynchospora fascicularis Rhynchospora filifolia Rhynchospora gracilenta Rhynchospora grayi Rhynchospora inexpansa Rhynchospora latifolia Rhynchospora megalocarpa Rhynchospora microcarpa Rhynchospora microcephala Rhynchospora miliacea Rhynchospora mixta Rhynchospora odorata Rhynchospora oligantha Rhynchospora perplexa Rhynchospora plumosa Rhynchospora pusilla Rhynchospora rariflora Rhynchospora tracyi Rhynchospora wrightiana Richardia brasiliensis Rosa bracteata Rosa carolina Rubus argutus Rubus cuneifolius Rubus sp. Rudbeckia hirta Rudbeckia mollis

Pale Meadowbeauty; Maryland Meadowbeauty Maid Marian Nuttall's Meadowbeauty Fringed Meadowbeauty Sweet Pinxter Azalea; Mountain Azalea Swamp Azalea Winged Sumac **Brownhair Snoutbean** Doubleform Snoutbean Michaux's Snoutbean Dollarleaf Baldwin's Beaksedge Anglestem Beaksedge **Bunched Beaksedge** Fringed Beaksedge Starrush Whitetop Fascicled Beaksedge Threadleaf Beaksedge Slender Beaksedge Gray's Beaksedge Nodding Beaksedge Giant Whitetop; Sandswamp Whitetop Sandyfield Beaksedge Southern Beaksedge Bunched Beaksedge Millet Beaksedge Mingled Beaksedge Fragrant Beaksedge Featherbristle Beaksedge Pineland Beaksedge Plumed Beaksedge Fairy Beaksedge Fewflower Beaksedge Tracy's Beaksedge Wright's Beaksedge **Tropical Mexican Clover** Macartney Rose Carolina Rose Sawtooth Blackberry Sand Blackberry Blackeyed Susan

Softhair Coneflower

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

Rudbeckia nitida Ruellia caroliniensis Rumex crispus Rumex hastatulus Rumex verticillatus Sabal minor Sabal palmetto Sabatia brevifolia Sabatia calycina Sabatia campanulata Sabatia decandra Sabatia difformis Sabatia gentianoides Sabatia grandiflora Sabatia macrophylla Saccharum ravennae Sacciolepis indica Sacciolepis striata Sagittaria graminea Sagittaria lancifolia Salix caroliniana Salvia azurea Salvia coccinea Salvia lyrata Sambucus nigra canadensis Sanicula canadensis Sapium sebiferum Sarracenia minor Sassafras albidum Saururus cernuus Schizachyrium scoparium Schoenolirion croceum Scleria baldwinii Scleria ciliata Scleria distans Scleria georgiana Scleria reticularis Scleria triglomerata Scleria verticillata Scoparia dulcis Scutellaria arenicola Scutellaria integrifolia Scutellaria multiglandulosa

Shiny Coneflower; St. John's Susan Carolina Wild Petunia Curly Dock Heartwing Dock; Hastateleaf Dock Swamp Dock Dwarf Palmetto: Bluestem Palm Cabbage Palm Shortleaf Rosegentian Coastal Rosegentian **Slender Rosegentian** BARTRAM'S ROSEGENTIAN Lanceleaf Rosegentian Pinewoods Rosegentian Largeflower Rosegentian Largeleaf Rosegentian Ravennagrass Indian Cupscale American Cupscale Grassy Arrowhead Bulltongue Arrowhead Carolina Willow; Coastalplain Willow Azure Blue Sage Tropical Sage; Blood Sage Lyreleaf Sage American Elder; Elderberry Canadian Blacksnakeroot Popcorntree; Chinese Tallowtree **Hooded Pitcherplant** Sassafras Lizard's Tail Little Bluestem Yellow Sunnybell Baldwin's Nutrush Fringed Nutrush **Riverswamp Nutrush** Slenderfruit Nutrush Netted Nutrush Tall Nutgrass; Whip Nutrush Low Nutrush Sweetbroom; Licoriceweed Florida Scrub Skullcap Helmet Skullcap Small's Skullcap

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

Sebastiania fruticosa Selaginella apoda ludoviciana Selaginella arenicola Senna obtusifolia Senna occidentalis Serenoa repens Sericocarpus tortifolius Sesbania herbacea Sesbania punicea Sesbania vesicaria Setaria parviflora Setaria pumila Seymeria pectinata Sida rhombifolia Sida ulmifolia Sideroxylon lycioides Sideroxylon tenax Silene antirrhina Silphium compositum Sisyrinchium angustifolium Sisyrinchium nashii Sisyrinchium xerophyllum Smilax auriculata Smilax bona-nox Smilax bona-nox Smilax glauca Smilax laurifolia Smilax pumila Smilax rotundifolia Solanum americanum Solanum capsicoides Solanum carolinense Solanum carolinense floridanum Solidago fistulosa Solidago odora Solidago odora chapmanii Solidago stricta Sorghastrum secundum Spermolepis divaricata Sphenopholis filiformis Sphenopholis obtusata Sphenopholis pensylvanica Spiranthes sp

Gulf Sebastian-Bush Gulf Spike-Moss Sand Spike-Moss Coffeeweed; Sicklepod Septicweed Saw Palmetto Whitetop Aster; Dixie Aster Danglepod Rattlebox Bladderpod; Bagpod Yellow Bristlegrass; Knotroot Foxtail Yellow Bristlegrass; Yellow Foxtail Piedmont Blacksenna Cuban Jute; Indian Hemp COMMON WIREWEED; COMMON FANPETALS Buckthorn Bully; Gopherwood Buckthorn Tough Bully Sleepy Catchfly Kidneyleaf Rosinweed Narrowleaf Blue-Eyed Grass Nash's Blue-Eyed Grass Jeweled Blue-Eyed Grass Earleaf Greenbrier Saw Greenbrier Saw Greenbrier Cat Greenbrier; Wild Sarsaparilla Laurel Greenbrier; Bamboo Vine Sarsaparilla Vine Bullbrier; Roundleaf Greenbrier American Black Nightshade Soda Apple; Cockroachberry Carolina Horsenettle Florida Horsenettle Pinebarren Goldenrod Anisescented Goldenrod; Sweet Goldenrod Chapman's Goldenrod Wand Goldenrod Lopsided Indiangrass **Roughfruit Scaleseed** Longleaf Wedgescale Prairie Wedgescale Swamp Wedgescale

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

Sporobolus curtissii Sporobolus floridanus Sporobolus indicus Sporobolus junceus Stachys floridana Stenanthium densum Stenotaphrum secundatum Stillingia sylvatica Stipulicida setacea Strophostyles umbellata Stylisma patens Stylodon carneum Stylosanthes biflora Styrax americanus Symphyotrichum bahamense *Symphyotrichum carolinianum* Symphyotrichum concolor Symphyotrichum dumosum Symphyotrichum lateriflorum Symphyotrichum undulatum Symplocos tinctoria Syngonanthus flavidulus Taxodium ascendens Taxodium distichum Tephrosia chrysophylla Tephrosia florida Tephrosia hispidula Tephrosia spicata Tephrosia virginiana Teucrium canadense Thalia geniculata Thelypteris hispidula versicolor Thelypteris kunthii Tillandsia recurvata Tillandsia usneoides Tillandsia usneoides Toxicodendron radicans Toxicodendron vernix Tradescantia roseolens Tragia urens Triadenum walteri Trichostema dichotomum Trichostema setaceum

**Curtiss' Dropseed** Florida Dropseed **Smutgrass** Pineywoods Dropseed Florida Hedgenettle; Florida Betony Crowpoison: Osceola's Plume ST. AUGUSTINE GRASS Queensdelight Pineland Scalypink Pink Fuzzybean **Coastalplain Dawnflower** Carolina False Vervain Sidebeak Pencilflower American Snowbell **BAHAMAN ASTER** Climbing Aster Eastern Silver Aster **Rice Button Aster** Calico Aster Wavyleaf Aster Common Sweetleaf; Horse Sugar Yellow Hatpins Pond-Cypress **Bald-Cypress** Scurf Hoarypea Florida Hoarypea Sprawling Hoarypea Spiked Hoarypea Goat's Rue Woodsage; Canadian Germander Alligatorflag; Fireflag Hairy Maiden Fern Widespread Maiden Fern; Southern Shield Fern Ballmoss Spanish Moss Spanish Moss Eastern Poison Ivy **Poison Sumac** Longleaf Spiderwort Wavyleaf Noseburn Greater Marsh St.John's-Wort Forked Bluecurls Narrowleaf Bluecurls

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

Tridens ambiguus Trifolium campestre Triodanis perfoliata Triplasis americana Tripsacum dactyloides Typha domingensis Typha latifolia Urochloa texana Utricularia subulata Vaccinium arboreum Vaccinium arboreum Vaccinium corymbosum Vaccinium corymbosum Vaccinium darrowii Vaccinium myrsinites Vaccinium stamineum Verbena bonariensis Verbena officinalis halei Verbena scabra Verbesina heterophylla Verbesina virginica Vernonia angustifolia Vernonia gigantea Vernonia noveboracensis Viburnum dentatum Viburnum nudum Viburnum obovatum Vicia floridana Vigna luteola Viola lanceolata Viola palmata Viola primulifolia Viola sororia Viola villosa Vitis aestivalis Vitis cinerea floridana Vitis rotundifolia Vittaria lineata Vulpia octoflora Wahlenbergia marginata Wisteria frutescens Wisteria sinensis Woodwardia areolata

**Pinebarren Fluffgrass** Field Clover; Hop Clover CLASPING VENUS' LOOKING-GLASS Perennial Sandgrass Eastern Gamagrass; Fakahatcheegrass Southern Cattail **Broadleaf Cattail** Texas Signalgrass; Texas Millet Zigzag Bladderwort Sparkleberry; Farkleberry Sparkleberry; Farkleberry Highbush Blueberry Highbush Blueberry Darrow's Blueberry Shiny Blueberry Deerberry Purpletop Vervain **Texas Vervain** Sandpaper Vervain; Harsh Vervain Diverseleaf Crownbeard White Crownbeard; Frostweed Tall Ironweed Giant Ironweed New York Ironweed Southern Arrowwood Possumhaw Walter's Viburnum: Small-Leaf Viburnum Florida Vetch Hairypod Cowpea Bog White Violet Early Blue Violet Primroseleaf Violet Common Blue Violet CAROLINA VIOLET Summer Grape Florida Grape Muscadine Shoestring Fern Sixweeks Fescue Southern Rockbell American Wisteria Chinese Wisteria Netted Chain Fern

Xyris sp	
Yucca filamentosa	Adam's Needle
Yucca filamentosa	Adam's Needle
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis	Hercules'-Club
Zephyranthes atamasca treatiae	Treat's Zephyrlily; Treat's Rainlily

#### Invertebrates

### Butterflies/Moths

Calycopis cecrops	Red-banded Hairstreak
Eurytides marcellus	Zebra Swallowtail
Hermeuptychia sosybius	Carolina Satyr
Junonia coenia	Common Buckeye
Megisto viola	Viola's Wood Satyr
Orgyia leucostigma	White-marked tussock moth
Papilio glaucus	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio palamedes	Palamedes Swallowtail
Phoebis sennae	Cloudless Sulphur
Vanessa atalanta	Red Admiral

	Centipedes	
Hemiscolopendra marginata		Florida Blue Centipede
	Currefish	
	Crayfish	
Procambarus alleni		Everglades Crayfish
Procambarus pictus		Black Creek Crayfish
	Dragonflies	
Erythrodiplax minuscula		Little Blue Dragonlet
Gomphus cavillaris		Sandhill Clubtail
Libellula vibrans		Great Blue Skimmer
Progomphus alachuensis		Tawny Sanddragon
Tramea carolina		Carolina saddlebags

## Amphibians

Acris gryllus	Southern Cricket Frog
Anaxyrus quercicus	Oak Toad
Anaxyrus terrestris	Southern Toad
Gastrophryne carolinensis	Eastern Narrowmouth Toad
Hyla femoralis	Pinewoods Treefrog
Hyla gratiosa	Barking Treefrog
Plethodon grobmani	Southeastern slimy salamander
Scaphiopus holbrookii	Eastern Spadefoot

#### Reptiles

Anolis carolinensis Anolis sagrei Coluber constrictor Gopherus polyphemus Micrurus fulvius fulvius Opheodrys aestivus Opheodrys aestivus Plestiodon laticeps Sceloporus undulatus Tantilla relicta

#### Aves

Archilochus colubris Baeolophus bicolor Baeolophus bicolor Buteo jamaicensis Buteo lineatus Cardinalis cardinalis Cathartes aura Colinus virginianus Corvus brachyrhynchos Cyanocitta cristata Dendroica discolor Dendroica dominica Dendroica pinus Dryocopus pileatus Elanoides forficatus Geothlypis trichas Melanerpes carolinus Meleagris gallopavo Mimus polyglottos Molothrus ater *Myiarchus crinitus* Parula americana Passerina ciris Picoides pubescens *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* Piranga rubra Poecile carolinensis Polioptila caerulea Quiscalus quiscula Sialia sialis

Green Anole Brown Anole Eastern Racer Gopher Tortoise Coral Snake Rough Green Snake Rough Green Snake Broadhead Skink Eastern Fence Lizard Florida crowned snake

Ruby-throated Hummingbird **Tufted Titmouse** Tufted Titmouse Red-tailed Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk Northern Cardinal Turkey Vulture Northern Bobwhite American Crow Blue Jay Prairie Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler Pine Warbler Pileated Woodpecker Swallow-tailed Kite **Common Yellowthroat** Red-bellied Woodpecker Wild Turkey Northern Mockingbird Brown-headed Cowbird Great Crested Flycatcher Northern Parula **Painted Bunting Downy Woodpecker** Eastern Towhee Summer Tanager Carolina Chickadee Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Common Grackle Eastern Bluebird

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

Thryothorus Iudovicianus Vermivora celata Vireo flavifrons Vireo griseus Vireo olivaceus Vireo solitarius Zenaida macroura

#### Mammals

- Canis latrans Dasypus novemcinctus Didelphis virginiana Ochrotomys nuttalli Odocoileus virginianus Procyon lotor Sciurus carolinensis Sigmodon hispidus Ursus americanus floridanus
- Carolina Wren Orange-crowned Warbler Yellow-throated Vireo White-eyed Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Blue-headed Vireo Mourning Dove

Coyote Nine-Banded Armadillo Virginia Opossum Golden Mouse White-Tailed Deer Raccoon Eastern gray squirrel Hispid cotton rat Florida black bear ADDENDUM 4 – Fire Management Plan

Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### PREPARED BY

### ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT

## Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area Fire Management Plan Clay County, Florida

The District Fire Management Plan provides general fire management information relative to policy, procedure, and reporting. This document provides the guidelines for the implementation of prescribed fire activities on the Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area (BCRCA).

#### **Introduction and Objectives**

The BCRCA covers approximately 964 acres in Clay County along Black Creek. This conservation area is located in numerous sections of Townships 5 South and Range 25 East.

The property is located east of the town of Middleburg. State Highway 21/Blanding Boulevard is approximately one mile to the north and west. Black Creek forms a large portion of the north and east boundaries of the property. Figure 1 depicts the general location of the conservation area.

Historically, fires have played a vital role in the shaping and maintenance of many of the natural communities in Florida. As such, most vegetative communities and associated wildlife are fire adapted and in many instances fire dependant. Conversely, the exclusion of fire from an area allows for successional changes within the natural community. Fire exclusion leads to the excessive accumulation of fuel loads, which increases the risk for catastrophic wildfires. The goals for the implementation of fire management activities within the conservation area include:

- Continued implementation of growing season burns to encourage the perpetuation of native fire adapted ground cover species
- Mitigation of smoke management issues
- Restoration and maintenance of a mosaic of natural plant communities and ecological diversity
- Maintenance and restoration of ecotonal areas

The achievement of these goals requires that the conservation area be partitioned into manageable burn units prior to the application of prescribed fire within those units. The following sections summarize the considerations necessary for the safe and effective use of prescribed fire as a land management tool within the BCRCA.


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### Fire Return Interval

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The general frequency to which fire returns to a community type under natural conditions is termed its fire return interval. Some communities require frequent pyric disturbances to perpetuate themselves while others are not fire adapted and subsequently do not require fire to maintain their characteristics. Table 1 and the following discussion of native plant communities occurring on the conservation area and optimal fire return intervals was characterized in part using information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory's *Guide to the Natural Communities of Florida*.

Table I.		
<b>Community Type</b>	Fire Return Interval*	
Floodplain Swamp	This is not a fire-adapted community.	
Upland Hardwood Forest	This is not a fire-adapted community – Edges may burn	
	with adjacent communities.	
Wet Flatwoods (shrubby)	5-7 years with the lower intervals along edges.	
Mesic Flatwoods	2-10 years.	
Scrubby Flatwoods	5-15 years.	
Sandhill	1-3 years.	
Xeric Hammock	Variable.	
Scrubby Flatwoods Sandhill Xeric Hammock	5-15 years. 1-3 years. Variable.	

\*Stated FNAI fire return intervals are based on regional differences in communities and fuel loading. The District will target the lowest interval possible that will effectively carry fire.

The above referenced fire return intervals relate to high quality natural communities. The fire return interval within degraded systems is variable. Prescribed fire will be applied as necessary to achieve restoration and management goals.

Sandhill is the most prevalent fire adapted natural community found within the BCRCA. The sandhills within the conservation area vary in level of disturbance. Disturbances including the removal of pine and prolonged fire exclusion have cause some areas to be dominated by a dense canopy of oaks (laurel, sand live, water, and turkey). In these areas, restoration driven management techniques will include herbicide treatments and prescribed burning. Since groundcover is sparse in these locations, leaf litter will be the primary carrier of fire for initial burns implemented in these areas. In areas where the canopy is more open and groundcover more abundant, grasses will be the primary carrier of fire.

Mesic, scrubby, and wet flatwoods natural community types are found within the BCRCA. Shrub components are intact and include a moderate coverage of saw palmetto and various ericaceous plants. Groundcover, abundant in some areas, includes wiregrass and numerous sedges and forbs. In most areas of mesic and wet flatwoods, the shrub layer will be the primary carrier of fire

Xeric hammocks occur throughout the conservation area and are likely advanced successional stages of sandhill natural plant communities. Fire management within this plant community will be in conjunction with the associated/adjacent sandhill communities. These natural plant communities will burn as site conditions permit during the implementation of controlled burns in adjacent plant communities. Additionally,

these areas will not be excluded from fire activities unless warranted by safety or smoke management issues.

## Seasonality and Type of Fire

Historically, most fires in Florida occurred in what is commonly referred to as the "growing season." The growing season usually spans from mid March through August. Fires during the spring and early summer months generally have significant ecological benefits as most fire-adapted flora is perpetuated by fire. Mimicking lightning ignited natural fires by implementing prescribed fire during the growing season provides benefits to natural systems by controlling shrub layers and encouraging diversity in groundcover species.

Dormant season burns, conducted from mid November through the mid March, are less intense than growing season burns and are a desirable alternative when igniting fire in areas of heavy fuel accumulation or in areas of heavy pine regeneration. Additionally, dormant season burns help to reduce fuel loads resulting in fewer safety and smoke management issues. Fuel loads in the westernmost portions of the property, in the area of the conservation easement, are high. Fuel loads are low/moderate moderate across the conservation area. The sandhill communities are within the targeted fire return interval. Heavy duff/peat and leaf litter accumulation in the seepage areas may require that some of the initial applications of fire be in the form of dormant season burning. This will allow for the reduction of fuel loads while providing for the protection of desirable vegetation. The ultimate goal of this strategy will be to move the prescribed fire application into a growing season rotation. District staff anticipates the transition to growing season burns to occur only after a sufficient reduction of fuel levels and tree growth is achieved.

In many cases, fire management units with similar fire management needs may be burned simultaneously, either with crews igniting the areas by hand from the ground, or with the aid of aircraft. Aerial ignition allows District staff to ignite fire management units more quickly, resulting in a faster burnout. In an area with a large mosaic of unavailable fuels, fire can be applied easily to all portions of the unit. With ground based crews this sometimes is infeasible and may pose a safety issue. An aerial burn safety plan (Exhibit 1) will accompany the individual burn prescriptions and be onsite and on the ground the day of any aerial burn.

## Wildfire Policy

In the event of a wildfire, if conditions permit, suppression strategies will utilize existing fuel breaks to contain the wildfire. These fuel breaks may include previously burned areas, existing roads, trails, and firelines, and wetlands and other water bodies. This is only possible, with the agreement of local fire rescue, DOF, District staff, and when all of the following conditions are met:

- 1) Fuels within the area have been managed
- 2) No extreme weather conditions are present or expected
- 3) There are no other wildfires that may require action
- 4) There are sufficient resources available to manage the fire to containment

5) The fire and the resulting smoke will not impact neighbors or smoke sensitive areas

If any of these conditions are not met, direct suppression action will be taken.

As soon as possible following a fire in which firelines are plowed, a plan for fireline rehabilitation shall be developed and implemented.

Persons discovering arson or wildfires on the conservation area should report them to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (DOF), the St. Johns River Water Management District, or by dialing 911.

### Post Burn Reports

Burn reports must be completed after each controlled burn or wildfire. These reports include detailed information regarding the acreage, natural communities, staff and equipment hours, and contractor hours. The timely completion of these reports is necessary for the compilation of information relative to the entire District burn program. Additionally, these reports provide a documented account of site specific conditions which are helpful in the planning of future burns.

### Smoke Management

A significant challenge to the implementation of any prescribed burn program is smoke management. Since 2005, District staff have conducted 11burns totaling 1018 acres on the BCRCA. Fuel accumulation (dead and live) across the conservation area is low to moderate. Heavier accumulations of fuels have the potential to produce a tremendous amount of smoke as areas are burned. As surrounding areas become increasingly urbanized, this problem will increase in magnitude, as there become fewer acceptable places to maneuver a smoke column from a prescribed fire.

While the BCRCA has an acceptable smoke shed in which to place a smoke column from a prescribed fire, there are smoke sensitive areas that surround the conservation area and

may affect the smoke management of each burn unit. Smoke management is a limiting factor in the application of prescribed fire within the conservation area. Figure 2 illustrates smoke sensitive areas in relation to the BCRCA. As development increases in the area, fire management will become more difficult. Increasing daily traffic on SR 21, CR 218, Henley Road, and other local roads will further impair the District's ability to implement prescribed burns at the appropriate fire return intervals within the conservation area.

A smoke screening process will be completed with each prescription, before an authorization is obtained from the FDOF. A fire weather forecast is obtained and evaluated for suitable burning conditions and smoke management objectives. A wind direction is chosen that will transport smoke away from urbanized areas and/or impact these smoke sensitive areas in the least possible way. When possible, the smoke plume from burns should be directed back through the conservation area. Smoke can then mix and loft into the atmosphere over uninhabited or rural land adequately enough to minimize off-site impacts.

On burn day, the ability of smoke to mix and disperse into the atmosphere should be good. Dispersion indices should be above 35. Dispersions of greater than 69 will only be selected if other weather and/or site conditions mitigate the potential for extreme fire behavior. Forecast mixing heights should be above 1700 ft. Transport winds should be at least 9 mph to effectively minimize residual smoke. Lower transport wind speeds can be utilized if dispersion index and mixing heights are above average. Burns will be conducted with a carefully plotted wind direction to limit and/or eliminate negative impacts from smoke to neighbors and urbanized areas.

#### Mechanical Treatments

Short and long-term weather conditions and urban interface issues are important considerations when implementing a prescribed fire program. Weather conditions such as extended droughts or insurmountable smoke management issues due to increased urbanization may require the District to manage natural systems mechanically. A variety of methods including mowing, roller chopping, and herbicide applications may be incorporated as alternatives to prescribed fire.



Prescribed fire activities are planned for the conservation area over the next five years and will be conducted in conjunction with annual burn plans.

#### Legal Considerations

Only burn managers certified by FDOF will approve the unit prescriptions and must be on site while the burn is being conducted. Certified burn managers adhering to the requirements of F.S. 590.026 are protected from liability for damage or injury caused by fire or resulting smoke, unless gross negligence is proven.

#### Fire Management Units

Fire management units (FMUs) have been delineated on the conservation area. FMUs will be delineated and finalized within the easement area during the scope of this plan. Where logical, the District used (or will use) existing roads and trails, and natural breaks such as wetlands and water bodies to delineate fire management units. Occasionally, multiple fire management units with similar fire needs will be burned simultaneously and these delineations provide a break in fuels so that staff may burn smaller areas than initially planned if needed.

Ideally, District staff would thoroughly address and describe each fire management unit in terms of its fire management needs. Though all units within the bounds of the conservation area are somewhat different, all can be categorized into one of several fuel model (FM) descriptions. The thirteen standard fuel models (as described in Hal E. Anderson's *Aids to Determining Fuel Models For Estimating Fire Behavior*) were used as a basis for this categorization. The factors considered in determining each FM are amount, composition and arrangement of available fuels within units, predicted fire behavior within each unit (under conditions acceptable to implement a prescribed burn), and resources necessary to regain management of a fire in extenuating circumstances. District staff anticipates the change of vegetative assemblages over time due to growth and/or restoration and understand that fuel characteristics, models, and resulting fire behavior will also change.

Below is a brief description of each fuel model occurring within the FMUs currently delineated and the associated natural communities. A detailed description of each individual fire management unit and its associated objectives will be included in the individual prescriptions. Some fire management units within the conservation area contain multiple FMs. In these instances, the designated FM is dominant in coverage. Figure 3 illustrates the FM associated with individual fire management units.



#### Fuel Models

#### Fuel Model 2

This category includes fire management units that are best described as sandhill. Fire in these fuel types is spread through herbaceous layer. These areas have a discontinuous overstory of longleaf and slash pine and include a coverage (heavy in some areas) of laurel oak, water oak, sand live oak, and turkey oak. Given appropriate wind speeds and fuel moisture conditions, fire can spread rapidly. The optimal fire return interval in this fuel model is approximately every 1-3 years with growing season burns being preferred.

#### Fuel Model 7

This category includes fire management units that are best described as flatwoods. Fire in these fuel types is spread through both the shrub and herbaceous layers. The shrub layer components present within the fire management units of this FM on the conservation area include saw palmetto, gallberry and other ericaceous shrubs between 3 and 5 feet tall and are contiguous across most of the units. The herbaceous layer includes wiregrass.

### Fuel Model 8

This category includes fire management units that are best described as xeric hammock also include the areas of floodplain swamp and upland hardwood forest, which are not fire adapted. Fire in these fuel types are typically slow burning ground fires carried primarily through leaf litter.

#### Exhibit 1 Aerial Burn Safety Plan Black Creek Ravines Conservation Area

The hazards associated with this type of burning are related to working with the helicopter, the sphere dispenser, and dealing with active fire. All helicopter safety procedures and all district fireline policies and procedures will be followed.

- **1. BRIEFING -** During the operational briefing, the safety plan will be reviewed with all personnel on the burn.
- 2. **HELICOPTER SAFETY** The pilot will give a helicopter safety briefing at the morning operational briefing.
- **3. IGNITION MACHINE SAFETY** The operator will review the operation and cleaning procedures for the dispenser at the morning briefing.
- 4. **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** The incident commander will ensure that all personnel have the required PPE.
- 5. HIGH HAZARD AREAS All high hazard areas such as power lines shall be designated on the map and attached to the burn plan.
- 6. EMERGENCY LANDING ZONES These should be confirmed with the pilot and indicated on the burn map. Helispot Latitude \_\_\_\_\_\_"N Longitude \_\_\_\_\_"W

## **Crash Rescue Plan**

# In the event of an accident involving the helicopter the following procedures will be followed.

#### **INCIDENT COMMANDER or BURN BOSS**

- 1. Notify 911
- 2. Notify Clay County Fire Rescue 904- 284-7703
- 3. Notify Clay County Sheriff's Office 904- 264-6512
- **4.** Assume responsibility of the Rescue Operation.
- 5. Notify NTSB 305-957-4610 OR 404-462-1666
- 6. Delegate responsibility of fire control to the second in command or the most qualified.

#### SECOND IN COMMAND

- **1.** Assume responsibility of the burn.
- 2. Assist the IC or Burn Boss with resource and personnel needs for the rescue operation.
- **3.** If the IC is in the helicopter, second in command will assume rescue operation responsibilities and assign the most qualified to fire control.

#### Level I Trauma Center

	<ol> <li>Shands Jacksonville-</li> <li>Shands - Gainesville</li> </ol>	904-244-0411 352-265-8000
DIVISIO	<u>N OF FORESTRY</u>	332 203 0000
	1. Jacksonville Dispatch	904-266-5001
NTSB	1. Southeast Regional Office	305-957-4610
	2. Southeast Field Office	404-462-1666