

Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve Management Plan Summary

Date of Plan:	TBD, 2024 (BOCC approval), April 17, 2023 (FDEP approval)
Management Area:	69.42 acres
Location:	Northeast Alachua County, 1 mile east of County Road 1471 on NE 132 nd Ave.
Date Acquired:	March 4, 2021
Cost:	\$497,500
Funding Source:	The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida.
FDEP Lease Term:	November 15, 2021 – November 14, 2071
FDEP Lease Fee:	Annual administration fee of \$300

Summary:

Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve lies in northeast Alachua County and was acquired by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and is managed by Alachua County. Outstanding ecological features include over 800 feet of lake frontage on Little Lake Santa Fe, 23 acres that fall within the Santa Fe River system Outstanding Florida Water designation, and two natural communities: basin swamp and basin marsh, both of which are in excellent condition. The Preserve will be managed to improve environmentally significant lands, and to protect water resources, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Key Management Objectives:

1. Maintain, enhance, or restore existing natural communities.
2. Inventory natural features of the site, including flora, fauna, and natural communities.
3. Protect populations of significant and listed plant and animal species.
4. Develop and implement a prescribed fire management plan.
5. Protect water resources from adverse impacts.
6. Effectively and responsibly manage cultural resources.
7. Promote public outdoor recreation and environmental education consistent with preserving the historic and natural resources of the site.

Resource Management Issues:

- **FIRE MANAGEMENT** – Implement prescribed fire to restore and maintain fire-dependent natural communities within the Preserve.
- **RESTORATION** – Restore approximately 41 acres of pine plantation to mesic flatwoods with timber management, longleaf pine and native groundcover plantings, and prescribed fire, and monitor the condition of other natural communities.
- **INVASIVE PLANTS** – Control or eradicate invasive, non-native plant species.
- **FERAL ANIMAL REMOVAL** – Monitor and remove feral animals as needed.
- **CULTURAL RESOURCES** – Protect known sites from disturbance and coordinate with Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources regarding identification and protection of cultural sites.

- MONITORING – Monitor Preserve through field inspections and photopoints to assess the effects of management activities and public use on the resources.

Site Development and Maintenance

- PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS – Develop parking/trailhead facilities, entrance sign, interpretive signs, and an interpretive kiosk.
- RECREATION – Develop a network of hiking/biking trails.
- EDUCATION – Develop interpretive exhibits and trails.
- MAINTENANCE – Maintain all improvements.

SECURITY – Conduct security patrols, install informational and regulatory signage.