

History of Florida Land Acts

1821:

July 10 & 11, Florida's territory purchased from Spain. U.S. Government mandated to confirm private property received by purchase or land grant from the Spanish government. All lands, except such confirmed by grants or sales, were held by the federal government.

1822:

May 8, Congressional Act for ascertaining claims and titles to lands within the territory. A commission was established to ascertain the Spanish grants and sales, and separate from the public domain lands.

1845 - Statehood:

March 3, Congressional Act admitting Florida into the Union. Section 16 of each township (approximately one million acres), or indemnity land in lieu thereof, was set aside for the support of public schools. In additions, as authorized for all new states by the internal improvement lands act of Sept. 4, 1841, the State of Florida received 500,000 acres as selected and surveyed by the state.

1850 - Swamp and Overflowed Lands Act:

September 28, Act of Congress referred to as "The Swamp Lands Act." This act vested to the states all swamp and overflowed lands not then sold. The state received only equitable title until it selected the land areas by survey, survey notes, or other acceptable mode. The Secretary of the Interior was the ultimate authority in the selection and approval of those lands identified by the state. Once selected by Interior, the lands were then patented.

1855 – Board of Trustees Established:

January 6, By an act of the Florida Legislature, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund was created to assure proper application of funds arising from the sale of, and to hold title to, the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands granted by Congress. Following the model Federal Act of September 20, 1850, this act also granted to the several different railroad lines, and lines constructed subsequent to the 1855 act, alternate sections of state lands on each side for six miles. The 1855 act, in addition, authorized the governor to select any lands granted by congress for the construction of railroad lines.

1856:

May 17, Act of Congress. This act granted to the state every alternate odd-numbered section on each side of a railroad or branch of for three major lines: from Amelia Island to Tampa Bay, from Jacksonville to Escambia Bay, and from Pensacola to the Alabama line. The act granted the governor authority to select such lands subject to the Secretary of the Interior's approval. The act requires no patents and only certification in lieu of patents. The Florida Legislature by an Act of December 27, 1856, accepted the federal land grants in order to execute the trust. The state act required the governor to certify as to completion of the railroad line receiving the grant.

December 26, Riparian Act (Chapter 791). This act divested state proprietorship of submerged lands and water privileges to citizens of the United States and the United States government. Such lands are defined as those lying upon a navigable stream, bay, channel, sea or harbor from the boundary of such channel to the upland private riparian land. The act allowed for filling of bulk-heading such lands up to the channel, but not to interfere with navigation.

1881 – Disston Sale:

Board of Trustees sells four million acres to Hamilton Disston.

1913:

June 5 (Chapter 6451). This act vested title to all islands, sand bars, and shallow banks within Dade and Palm Beach counties to the Board of Trustees. The act authorized the board to sell and convey islands and submerged lands with proper notice to and protection of private riparian owners. New owners of such lands were given authority to bulkhead and fill.

1915:

June 2 (Chapter 6960). This act added Monroe County to provisions identical to the 1913 Act, Chapter 6451.

1917:

May 21 (Chapter 7304). This act added to provisions identical to the 1913 Act all islands, sand bars, shallow banks or small islands developed in the process of dredging of channels by the U.S. Government located in the tidal waters of all counties in the state.

1919 – Trustees Land Title:

June 9 (Chapter 7891). This act vested to the board title to all marsh, wet, or low lands, that were reclaimed in the process of dredging or other means, which were not originally included in the 1850 Swamp Lands Act. The board was authorized to survey and, subsequently, to sell and convey such wet or low lands. First right of refusal was offered to adjacent landowners for up to 80 acres. Tracts sold to other individuals were not to exceed 80 acres. Private riparian rights were preserved.

1921 – Butler Act:

June 1 (Chapter 8537 – Butler Act). This act divested title and other interest in saltwater submerged lands lying in navigable waters and adjacent to uplands owned by United States, county or municipal government, private individuals or corporations to these same parties. Development rights were extended to these new owners out into the waters, but not obstructing the channel. Such divestiture was dependent upon filling or improving the submerged lands. Exemptions and reservations to the state included all swamp or overflowed lands, oyster beds, all oils and minerals, beaches used for bathing, and lakes. Public access was preserved until filling or improvements were made.

1937 – Murphy Act:

June 9 (Chapter 18296). This act provided for the statutory forfeiture of lands for nonpayment of taxes. Tax certificated unredeemed as of June 9, 1939 were automatically converted to fee simple title in the name of the state, as administered by the board of trustees. (This is also known as the Murphy Act.)

1948 – MRTA:

June 14, Most recent root of title for operation of MRTA against sovereignty lands.

1951 – Trustees Land Title:

May 29 (Chapter 26776). Except in Dade and Palm Beach counties, the act vested to Board of Trustees title to all sovereign tidal water bottoms, including islands, sand bars, and shallow banks made in the process of dredging by the U.S. Government (Note 1917 Act, Chapter 7304). The act also validated all conveyances of sovereignty lands made pursuant to chapter 7304 and 6451, Laws of Florida.

1957 – Bulkhead Act:

June 11 (Chapter 57-362). This was an act vesting the title to all sovereignty submerged bottom lands, except for submerged lands in navigable freshwater lakes, rivers and streams, and lands heretofore sold or conveyed in the Board of Trustees: providing for the disposition thereof: Authorizing the appropriate board of county commissioners, governing body of any municipality or other local board authorized by law, and the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, to ascertain and establish or alter a bulkhead line or lines in areas on their own initiative or on application of an upland owner: prohibiting the pumping of sand, rock or earth, and the construction of islands, from navigable water bottoms: excepting certain counties from certain provisions thereof: and providing for enforcement by equity suit repealed the Butler Act.

1963 – MRTA Enacted:

September 1 (Chapter 63-133). This act, the Marketable Record Title Act, provides for extinguishment of certain interests in real property when such interests precede a recorded root of title at least 30 years old.

1969 – Trustees Land Title:

July 5 (Chapter 69-308). The act included submerged lands in navigable fresh water lakes, rivers and streams within the restrictions relating to bulkhead lines, and filling and dredging submerged lands.

1972:

(Chapter 72-300). The act pledged full faith and credit of the state in the sale of \$200 million for capital projects for environmentally endangered lands and \$40 million for outdoor recreation lands. Authorized the Department of Natural Resources to acquire such lands so designated, or enter into other contracts with private and public bodies that would provide for conservation and protection of such lands as designated.

1975:

June 29 (Chapter 75-269). Directs the trustees to compile a list of all lands, title to which vested in the state pursuant to the Murphy Act and not subsequently divested.

July 1 (Chapter 75-20, Environmental Reorganization Act). Transferred duties of trustees to the Department of Natural Resources.

(Chapter 253.1221). Bulkhead lines; reestablishment. All bulkhead lines established pursuant to former S.253.122 are hereby established at the line of mean high water or ordinary high water.

1976:

June 23 (Chapter 76-245). Prohibits any state agency from issuing a permit to use sovereignty lands before proof of lease, etc. produced by applicant.

1977 – Trustees Land Title:

July 1 (Chapter 77-384). Validates conveyance of any interests in land by the trustees between June 30, 1975 and July 1, 1977.

1978 – MRTA: Sovereignty Lands Exception:

June 15 (Chapter 78-288). Excepts sovereignty lands beneath navigable waters from operation of the Marketable Record Title Act.

1979:

October 1 (Chapter 79-255). Created the Division of State Lands within the Department of Natural Resources. Established the Conservation and Recreation

1980 – Trustees Land Title:

July 1 (Chapter 80-280). Requires state agencies controlling trustee land to prepare management plans. Direct trustees to identify and dispose of surplus parcels.

October 1 (Chapter 80-228). Requires that Murphy Act parcels still held by the trustees be conveyed to the record owner when certain conditions are met.

1981:

June 30 (Chapter 81-210). Gives high priority to state land acquisition in areas of critical state concern, empowers trustees to adopt rules defining types of land for voluntary acquisition.

MRTA: Notice of Interest: July 1 (Chapter 81-242). Requires anyone claiming an interest in real property, not extinguished by the marketable record title act prior to July 1, 1981, to file a sufficient notice of that interest by July 1, 1983.

1982:

July 1 (Chapter 82-185). Reestablished the internal improvement trust fund and provided that the fund can be used for acquisition, protection, etc. of state-owned lands.

August 1 (Chapter 82-152). Provides deadlines for voluntary purchase of conservation or recreation land by the state, and requires detailed management and appraisal information prior to trustee approval to begin purchase negotiations.

Source: Florida Legislature/State Land Study Committee, Final Report (March 1979). Revised November 1982.

1983:

June 24 (Chapter 83-223). Requires all publicly real property to be separately classified on property assessment roles. Provides for reconciliation of state and county records as to ownership of state lands. Establishes an advisory committee to review state land management plans and surplus land sales.

July 1 (Chapter 83-114). Extensively revised procedures for state acquisition of conservation and recreation lands.

1984 – Murphy Act Parcels Released:

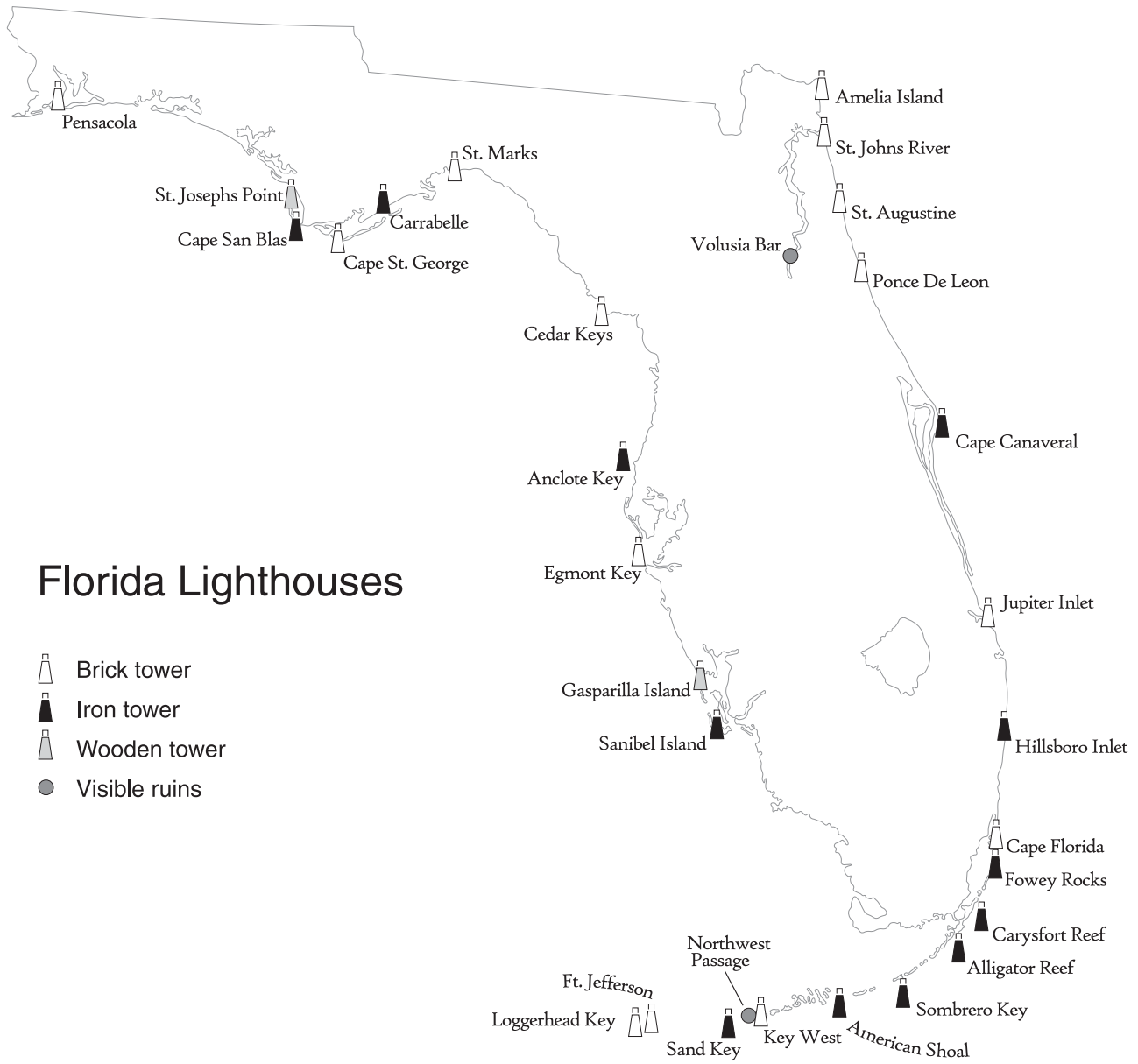
October 1 (Chapter 84-197). Released the state's interest in Murphy Act parcels if such parcels were subject to continuous private ownership and all taxes were paid for at least 20 years. Contains exceptions and construction of recodification provisions.

1993:

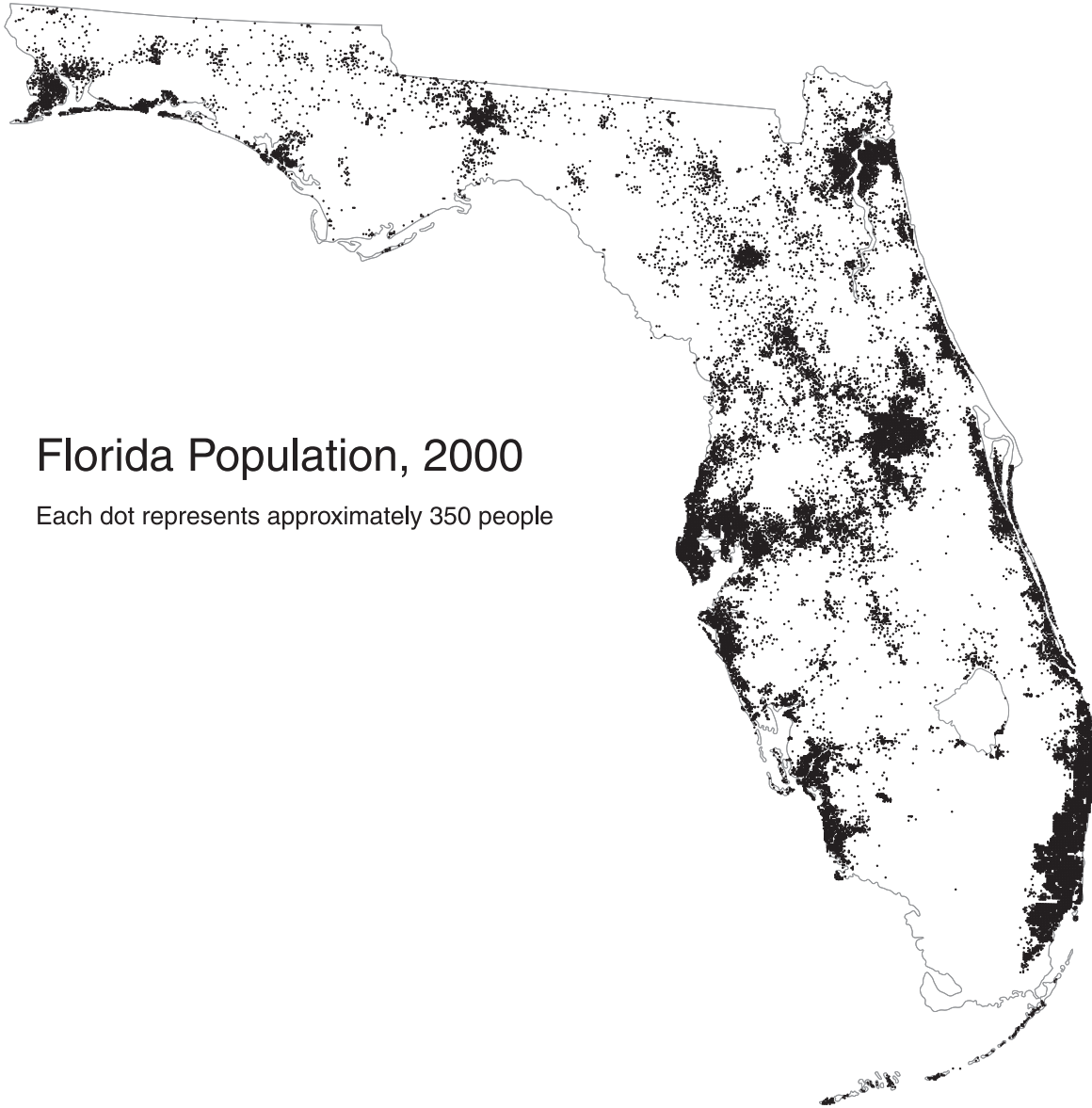
July 1 (Chapter 253.12 (a) (9) (10)). Tidally affected lands that were filled prior to July 1, 1975, were granted to the landowners having record title to the adjacent uplands. Excludes spoil islands, lands filled by current record title holder, lands subject to litigation on January 1, 1993, or lands on a state acquisition list as of January 1, 1993.

Florida Lighthouses

Name	Location	Year First Lit	Foundation Material	Construction Material
Alligator Reef Light	4 Miles East of Indian Key	1873	Iron Pile w/Platform	Iron
Amelia Island Light	Entrance to St. Mary's River	1820	Stone	Brick with Stucco
American Shoal Light	Florida Keys, near Summerland Key	1880	Iron Straightpile with Disk	Iron
Anclote Key Light	Anclote Key at Anclote River Mouth	1887	Pilings	Cast Iron
Cape Canaveral Light	Cape Canaveral	1868	Brick	Cast Iron Plate with Brick Lining
Cape Florida Light	Southernmost Point on Key Biscayne	1846	Brick on Coral Reef	Brick with Steel Stairs
Cape San Blas Light	Cape San Blas	1885	Iron Pilings	Cast Iron
Cape St. George Light	Little St. George Island/ Gulf of Mexico	1852	Stone	Brick
Carysfort Reef Light	Carysfort Reef / FL Keys	1852	Iron Screwpile with Disk	Iron
Cedar Keys (Seahorse Key) Light	Seahorse Key/Gulf of Mexico	1854	Granite Pile with Platform	Brick with Wooden Additions
Crooked River (Carabelle) Light	Crooked River	1895	Concrete	Iron
Dry Tortugas (Loggerhead Key) Light	Loggerhead Key/Dry Tortugas Islands	1858	Stone	Brick
Egmont Key Light	Tampa Bay	1858	Stone	Brick
Fowey Rocks Light	Off Key Biscayne	1878	Straightpile with Disk	Cast Iron
Gasparilla Island (Boca Grande) Lights	Gasparilla Island	1890	Iron Pilings	Ash Wood Frame
Hillsboro Inlet Light	North Side Hillsboro Inlet	1907	Iron Piling	Iron
Jupiter Inlet Light	Loxahatchee and Indian River Junction	1860	Oyster Shells	Brick
Key West Light	Whiteheads Point	1847	Natural Emplaced	Brick
Northwest Passage (Ruins)	Key West	1838	Iron Pile	Wood
Pensacola Light	Pensacola Bay	1859	Granite	Brick
Ponce De Leon (Mosquito Inlet) Light	South of Daytona Beach	1887	Brick	Brick
Sand Key Light (Rebecca Shoal)	7 Miles Southwest of Key West	1853	Iron Screwpile with Platform	Iron
Sanibel Island Light	Point Ybel, Sanibel Island	1884	Iron Pile	Iron
Sombrero Key Light	Near Marathon Key	1858	Iron Pile with Disks	Cast Iron
St. John's River (Mayport) Light	Entrance at St. John's River	1859	Natural Emplaced	Brick
St. Joseph Point Range Rear Light "Beacon Hill"	Relocated from Port St. Joe/St. Joseph Bay	1902	Relocated to Simmons Bayou	Wood
St. Marks (Range Rear) Light	Appalachee Bay/St. Mark's River	1842	Stone	Brick
St. Augustine Light	Anastasia Island	1874	Brick on Coquina	Brick
Tortugas Harbor (Fort Jefferson) Light	Garden Key/Dry Tortugas Islands	1912	Brick Parapet	Iron
Volusia Bar Lighthouse (Ruins)	On the South end of Lake George	1886	Iron	Wood







Florida Population, 2000

Each dot represents approximately 350 people





State Parks of Florida

Florida State Parks By Region (Map on Page 68)

		Campsites	Lodging	Picnicking	Swimming	Fishing	Trails/Hiking	Guided Tours	Boat/Canoe	Boat Ramp
Northwest Florida										
1	Alfred B. Maclay Gardens			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2	Bald Point			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
3	Big Lagoon	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4	Blackwater Heritage Trail			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
5	Blackwater River	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
6	Camp Helen			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
7	Constitution Convention Museum			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
8	Deer Lake			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
9	Econfina River			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
10	Eden Gardens			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
11	Falling Waters	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
12	Florida Caverns	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
13	Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
14	Grayton Beach	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
15	Henderson Beach	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
16	John Gorrie Museum			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
17	Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
18	Lake Talquin			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
19	Letchworth Mounds			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
20	Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
21	Navarre Beach			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
22	Ochlockonee River	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
23	Orman House			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
24	Perdido Key			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
25	Ponce de Leon Springs			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
26	San Marcos de Apalache Historic			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
27	St. Andrews	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
28	St. George Island	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
29	St. Joseph Peninsula	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
30	Tallahassee-St. Marks Historic Railroad Trail			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
31	Tarkln Bayou			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
32	Three Rivers	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
33	Topsail Hill Preserve	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
34	Torreyia	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
35	Wakulla Springs & Lodge		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Northeast Florida										
36	Amelia Island			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
37	Big Shoals			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
38	Big Talbot Island			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
39	Cedar Key Museum			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
40	Cedar Key Scrub			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
41	Crystal River Archaeological			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
42	Devil's Millhopper Geological			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
43	Dudley Farm Historic			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
44	Fanning Springs			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
45	Forest Capital Museum			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
46	Fort Clinch	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
47	Fort George Island Cultural			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
48	Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
49	Homosassa Springs Wildlife			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
50	Ichetuchnee Springs			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
51	Little Talbot Island	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
52	Manatee Springs	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
53	Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
54	Mike Roess Gold Head Branch	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
55	Nature Coast Trail			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
56	O'Leno	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
57	Olustee Battlefield Historic			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
58	Paynes Prairie Preserve	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
59	Peacock Springs			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
60	Rainbow Springs	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
61	River Rise Preserve			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
62	San Felasco Hammock Preserve			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
63	Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
64	Suwannee River	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
65	Troy Spring			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
66	Van Fleet, General James A. Trail			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
67	Waccasassa Bay Preserve			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
68	Withlacoochee Trail			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
69	Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins Historic			•	•	•	•	•	•	•

		Campsites	Lodging	Picnicking	Swimming	Fishing	Trails/Hiking	Guided Tours	Boat/Canoe	Boat Ramp
Central Florida										
70	Anastasia	•		•	•	•	•		•	
71	Blue Spring	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
72	Bulow Creek			•	•	•	•		•	
73	Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic			•		•	•		•	•
74	Catfish Creek Preserve			•		•	•		•	
75	De Leon Springs			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
76	Dunn's Creek			•		•	•		•	
77	Faver-Dykes	•		•		•	•		•	•
78	Fort Mose			•		•	•		•	
79	Gamble Rogers Mem. S.R.A.	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
80	Guana River			•	•	•	•		•	
81	Hontoon Island	•	•	•		•	•		•	
82	Lake Griffin	•		•		•	•		•	•
83	Lake Kissimmee	•		•		•	•		•	•
84	Lake Louisa			•	•	•	•		•	
85	Lower Wekiva River Preserve			•		•	•		•	
86	Ravine Gardens			•		•	•		•	
87	Rock Springs Run Reserve			•		•	•		•	
88	Sebastian Inlet	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
89	Silver River	•	•	•		•	•		•	
90	Tomoka	•		•		•	•		•	•
91	Tosohatchee Reserve			•		•	•		•	
92	Washington Oaks Gardens			•		•	•	•	•	
93	Wekiwa Springs	•		•	•	•	•		•	
Southwest Florida										
94	Alafia River	•		•		•	•		•	
95	Anclote Key Preserve			•	•	•	•		•	
96	Caladesi Island			•	•	•	•		•	
97	Cayo Costa	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
98	Collier-Seminole	•		•		•	•		•	•
99	Dade Battlefield Historic			•		•	•		•	
100	Delnor-Wiggins Pass			•	•	•	•		•	•
101	Don Pedro Island			•	•	•	•		•	
102	Egmont Key			•	•	•	•	•	•	
103	Fakahatchee Strand Preserve			•		•	•		•	
104	Fort Cooper			•	•	•	•		•	
105	Gamble Plantation Historic			•		•	•	•	•	
106	Gasparilla Island			•	•	•	•		•	
107	Highlands Hammock	•		•		•	•	•	•	
108	Hillsborough River	•		•	•	•	•		•	
109	Honeymoon Island			•	•	•	•		•	
110	Koreshan State Historic Site	•		•		•	•	•	•	•
111	Lake June in Winter Scrub			•		•	•		•	
112	Lake Manatee	•		•	•	•	•		•	•
113	Little Manatee River	•		•		•	•		•	
114	Lovers Key			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
115	Myakka River	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
116	Oscar Scherer	•		•	•	•	•		•	
117	Paynes Creek Historic			•		•	•		•	
118	Skyway Fishing Pier			•		•	•		•	
119	Stump Pass Beach			•	•	•	•		•	
120	Werner Boyce Salt Springs			•		•	•		•	
121	Ybor City Museum						•			
Southeast Florida										
122	Avalon				•	•	•		•	
123	Bahia Honda	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
124	Bill Baggs Cape Florida			•	•	•	•	•	•	
125	Curry Hammock			•		•	•		•	
126	Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock			•		•	•	•	•	
127	Fort Pierce Inlet/Avalon			•	•	•	•		•	
128	Fort Zachary Taylor Historic			•		•	•	•	•	
129	Hugh Taylor Birch			•	•	•	•		•	
130	Indian Key Historic			•		•	•		•	
131	John D. MacArthur Beach			•	•	•	•		•	
132	John Pennekamp Coral Reef	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
133	John U. Lloyd Beach			•	•	•	•		•	
134	Jonathan Dickinson	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
135	Kissimmee Prairie Preserve	•		•		•	•		•	
136	Lignumvitae Key Botanical			•		•	•		•	
137	Long Key	•		•	•	•	•		•	
138	Oleta River		•	•	•	•	•		•	
139	Savannas Preserve			•		•	•	•	•	
140	Seabranche Preserve			•		•	•		•	
141	St. Lucie Inlet Preserve			•	•	•	•		•	
142	The Barnacle Historic			•		•	•	•	•	
143	Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological			•		•	•		•	



Public Access

■ State owned lands with public access