



Baillie's Bluff Conservation Area

At A Glance...

- 110 acres contiguous with 326 acres of park lands.
- Purchased in 2012.
- Located in Holiday, FL
- Supports coastal hammock, cypress swamp, and former pastureland.

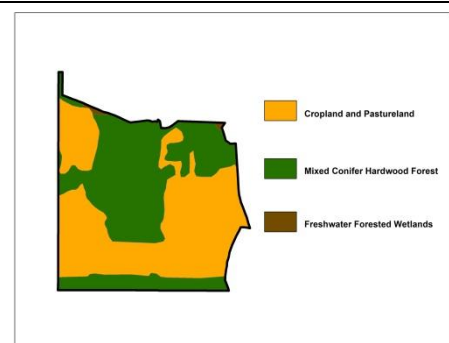


Background

The Baillie's Bluff Conservation Area lies in southwest Pasco County, near Strauber Memorial Highway and just south of the Coastal Marshes ecological planning unit. It shares its borders with undeveloped park land. The property is the second coastal property purchased by the Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program. Because Pasco's 36 square miles of coastal lands are highly sought-after for development, each coastal purchase helps preserve our rapidly disappearing coastal natural communities. Baillie's Bluff Conservation Area is managed by Pasco County Natural Resources Division.

Characteristics

Historical natural communities consisted of coastal hammock, cypress swamp, and knolls of pine. Live and laurel oaks create forest, shade and acorns; myrsine and marlberry provide berries; and wildflowers can be found scattered in the open fields and small marshes. Scant remains of a homestead once settled on a five foot rise above its surroundings evoke times gone by.



Dominant natural communities of Baillie's Bluff Conservation Area

Baillie's Bluff Conservation Area

Off-road vehicle use has damaged portions of the site. Large boulders now block the former western access. The property also supports wildlife such as gopher tortoises, osprey, bald eagles, Cooper's and red-shouldered hawks, woodpeckers, swallows, wrens and a diversity of warblers – especially during spring and fall migrations.

Management



Since assuming management, the County has concentrated on removing large amounts of debris left on the property. The Natural Resources Division has hosted a local intergenerational service group a number of times, who have hauled out tons of trash from the site. Future plans consist of creating a Wilderness Park like concept that allows some use such as RV camping in the undeveloped park land and creating nature trails and low-impact recreational activities such as bird watching on the conservation area.

Value

Baillie's Bluff Conservation Area acts as one important flyway stopover in a string of other Florida lands set aside to provide a somewhat continuous path of stopovers. Each migratory bird species requires different intervals at which to drop down and rest, depending on the length their flight segments are. Birds returning from or heading towards tropical regions, the Caribbean and South America desparately need to relax and recuperate in safe shelter where they can find high-nutrition nuts, seeds, fruits and insects.



For more information:

Natural Resources Division
4111 Land O' Lakes Blvd., Suite 310
Land O' Lakes FL 34639
Fax: 813.929.2714

352.523.2411 ♦ 727.847.2411 ♦ 800.368.2411 ♦ 813.996.2411
<http://www.pascocountyfl.net/index.aspx?nid=252>

