



Vicinity Map

In order to protect the fragile dune structure and vegetation while providing access to and from the beach, an elevated dune walkover has been constructed from South Atlantic Avenue to the beach. The walkover is handicapped accessible and includes a gazebo with benches provided by The Garden Club of Ponce Inlet.

The nature-themed children's playgrounds have been designed with the Preserve's history in mind and include replicas of a dugout canoe and a Timucuan Owl Totem. An off-street parking area with restrooms is located off Peninsula Drive in the southern area of the Preserve to provide easy access to both the interior facilities and the canoe launch and river boardwalk to the west. Bike racks are also provided in this area.

The elevated boardwalk over the saltmarsh provides visitors with an opportunity to view this productive habitat and its associated wildlife. The canoe launches provide access to a network of mosquito control ditches and natural creeks that lace the adjacent saltwater marsh.

Those who wish to explore the Halifax River can travel to it along the Wilbur Rose Paddling Trail and Spruce Creek State Canoe Trail. There is also an open fishing area and a gazebo at the west end of the boardwalk which provides beautiful views of the Halifax River.

The Town of Ponce Inlet gratefully acknowledges the staff and Governing Board members of Florida Communities Trust who made possible the purchase of Ponce Preserve with a 100% grant administered under the State of Florida Preservation 2000 program as well as for their reimbursement to the Town for the purchase of the last parcel of the Preserve under the Florida Forever program in 2003.

The Town also acknowledges the Volusia ECHO Grant Program, Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, Ponce de Leon Inlet & Port District, and Florida Inland Navigation District for their assistance in providing the recreational facilities, and the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet for its generous donation of benches and landscaping.

Ponce Preserve is open to the public from sunrise to sunset, every day. There is no charge for admission.

For additional information, contact:

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P o n c e P r e s e r v e



"40 acres of natural splendor extending from the golden sands of the Atlantic Ocean beach to the sparkling waters of The Halifax River."

The Town of Ponce Inlet offers residents and visitors a chance to explore and enjoy four distinct natural community types – Beach Dune, Coastal Strand, Maritime Hammock and Tidal Marsh – and an ancient Indian midden. Learn about the threatened and endangered plant and animal species that live, feed and breed here, including Green and Loggerhead turtles, Wood Storks, Piping Plovers, Perigrine Falcons, and Gopher Tortoises. Find solitude and serenity in the cool embrace of a dense, wind-sculpted canopy of scrub live oak and red bay trees. Or just splash in the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean and lounge on the beautiful beach.

Ponce Preserve
It's ours to enjoy!

WHAT IS PONCE PRESERVE?

Ponce Preserve is a park within the Town of Ponce Inlet located on the coastal barrier island about 8 miles south of Daytona Beach. It extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Halifax River, encompassing several vegetative communities -- Beach Dune, Coastal Strand, Maritime Hammock, and Tidal Marsh. It also adjoins the State-owned Green Mound Indian midden site. It is unusual to find a site so rich with archeological and natural features within an urban area and so easily accessible to the public, making it uniquely suited for outdoor recreation and environmental and cultural education.

The Town's purchase of the property in 1998 and 2002 was made possible by a grant of Preservation 2000 funds administered by the Florida Communities Trust.

The adopted management plan for Ponce Preserve, promotes three basic objectives: 1) to protect and enhance public access to the Green Mound; 2) to preserve the last remaining, undisturbed ocean-to-river property in Ponce Inlet; and 3) to provide high quality outdoor recreational and educational opportunities for the residents of Ponce Inlet and the general public.

Protect and Enhance Public Access to Green Mound

The Green Mound is one of the largest shell mounds in the nation. Archaeological investigations indicate that it was constructed and used during the late St. Johns period, or after 800 A.D. This midden is primarily located on adjoining property owned by the State of Florida, and leased by the Town of Ponce Inlet. There is an ancient Live Oak at the base of the Mound. Thanks to the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet, this 400-year-old tree, known as the Green Mound Live Oak, is on the American Forests Register of Historic Trees. Excessive foot traffic over the years has degraded the Mound. Visitors are asked to respect its

history and abide by State law by not climbing on the Mound.

Preserve Threatened Natural Habitat

The management plan prescribes policies and strategies that the Town uses to protect the wetlands and upland vegetative communities and the flora and fauna dependent on these vegetative communities, including several threatened and endangered species.

Resource-Based Recreation

The Preserve's site amenities allow visitors to take advantage of its many recreation opportunities while leaving its natural and archaeological features undisturbed.

The winding network of nature trails takes visitors through the dramatic transition from ocean beach to the river; through dunes, palmetto scrub, maritime hammock and salt marsh. The trails are designed and located to take maximum advantage of the environmental observation, education and resource protection opportunities. A portion of the trails also have "exercise stations" for the more athletically inclined. In the near future, the Town intends to develop interpretive programs for the trails with the assistance of the Museum of Arts and Sciences; the Audubon Society; the Florida Department of State, Bureau of Archaeological Research; and Volusia Turtle Patrol.

Ponce Preserve Trails

