

Public Meeting for the Triple Creek Preserve Management Plan Update

August 1, 2018, Bell Creek Preserve



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Agenda

1. Arrival of the public and sign-in – **6:30 – 6:40 PM**
2. Welcome by Ross Dickerson, Section Manager for Environmental Lands Management with the Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department - **6:40 – 6:50 PM**
3. Introductions of Hillsborough County staff and management involved with management of the Triple Creek Preserve – **6:50 – 7:00 PM**
4. Summary of the Prospectus for the Triple Creek Preserve Management Plan Update by Jay Exum, Ph.D., Exum Associates – **7:00 – 7:20 PM**
5. Questions and Comments from the Public – **7:20 – 8:30 PM**

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Objectives of the 10-year Management Plan Update:

- Confirm requirements of the funding grant from the state.
- Identify key accomplishments.
- Update natural resource data and site conditions.
- State current management objectives and actions.
- Demonstrate available staff and funding to meet objectives.
- Complete the “checklist” to document appropriate management and use of the Preserve.
- Solicit public input.

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Background

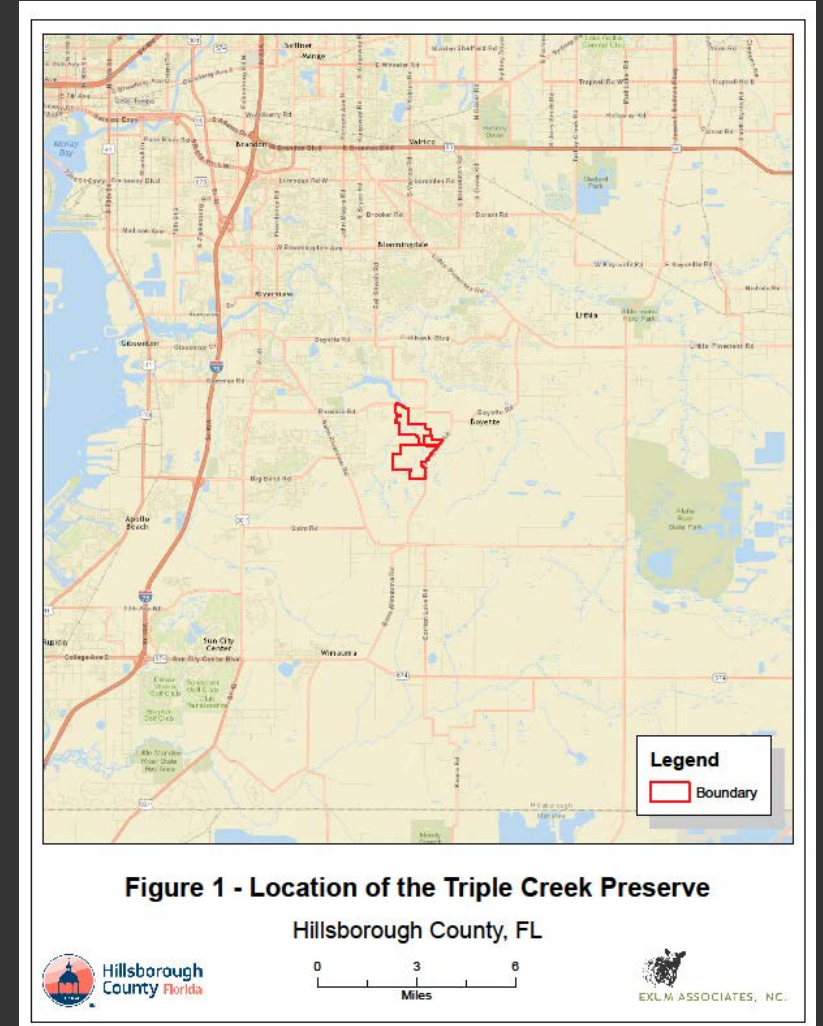
- Triple Creek Preserve is 970 acres of protected land managed by the Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department,
- Acquired in two phases with 50% funding from the County's ELAP Program and 50% funding from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT).
- Original management plans were prepared in 2000 and 2006.

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Location of the Triple Creek Preserve

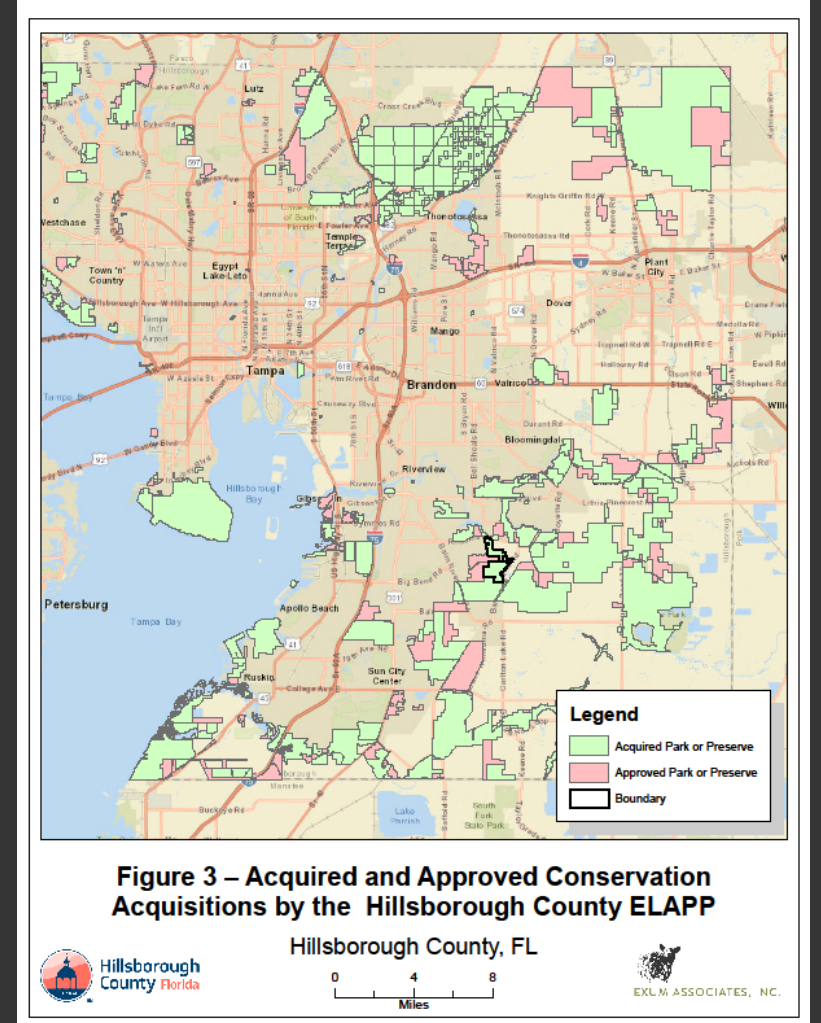
(generally south of Rhodine Road, west of Balm Boyette Road, and about a mile east of Balm Riverview Road)



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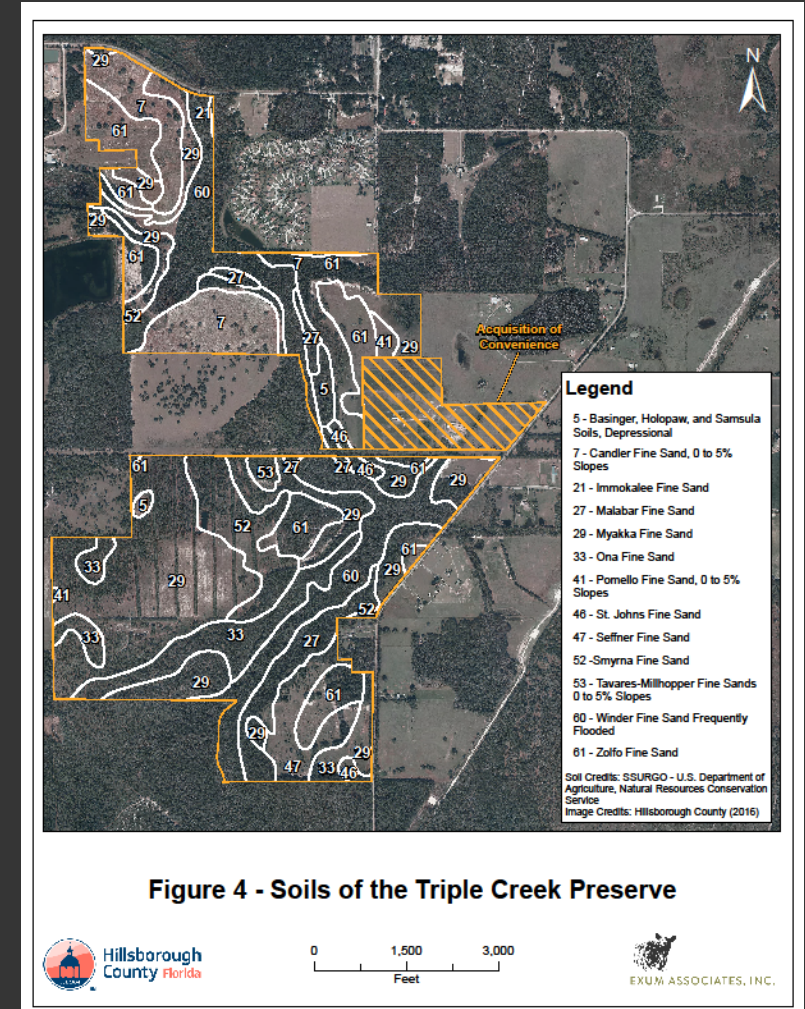
Acquired and Approved Conservation Acquisitions in the ELAPP



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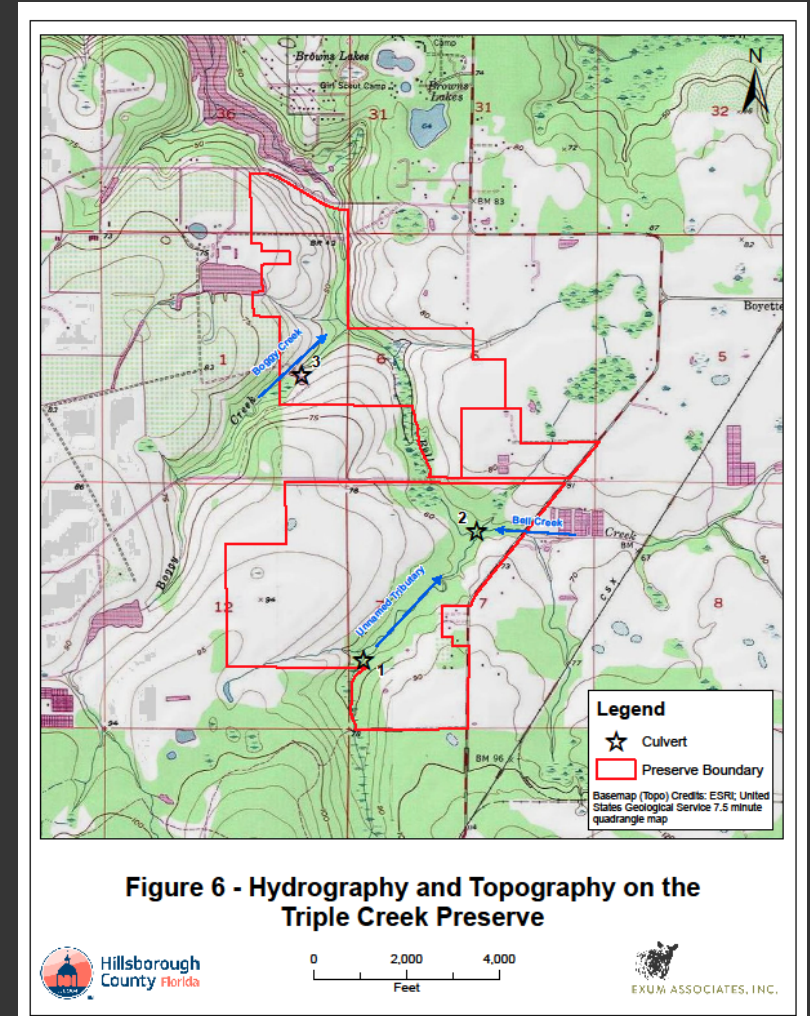
Soils on Triple Creek Preserve



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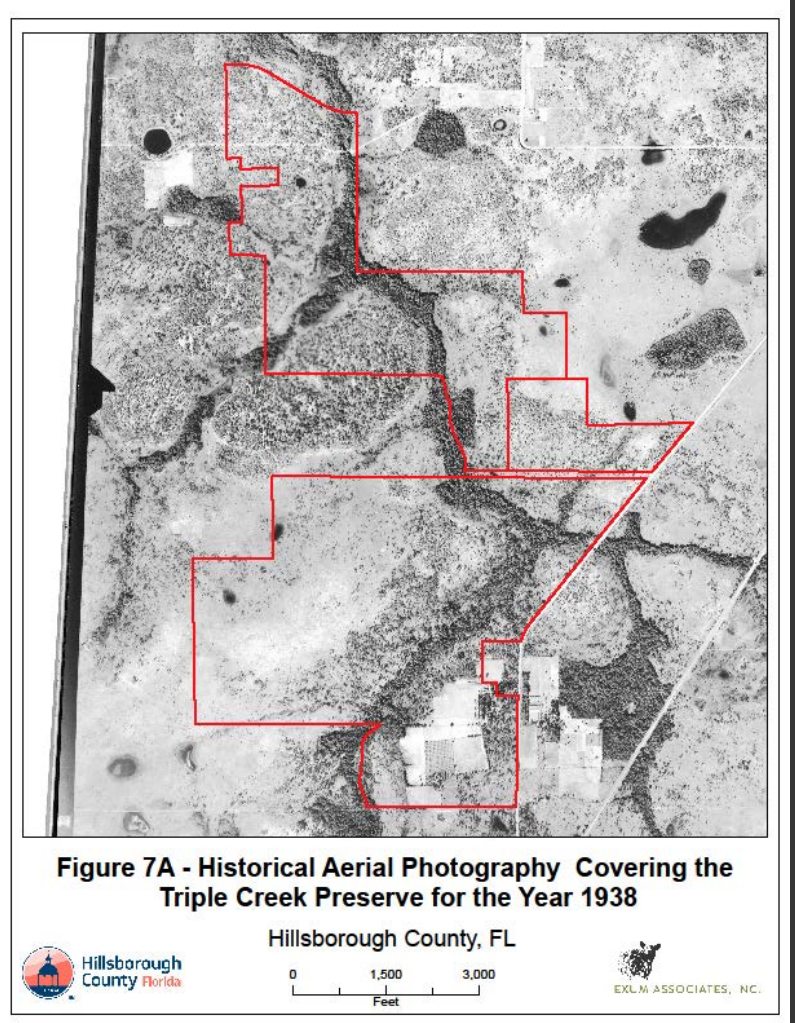
Hydrography and Topography on Triple Creek Preserve



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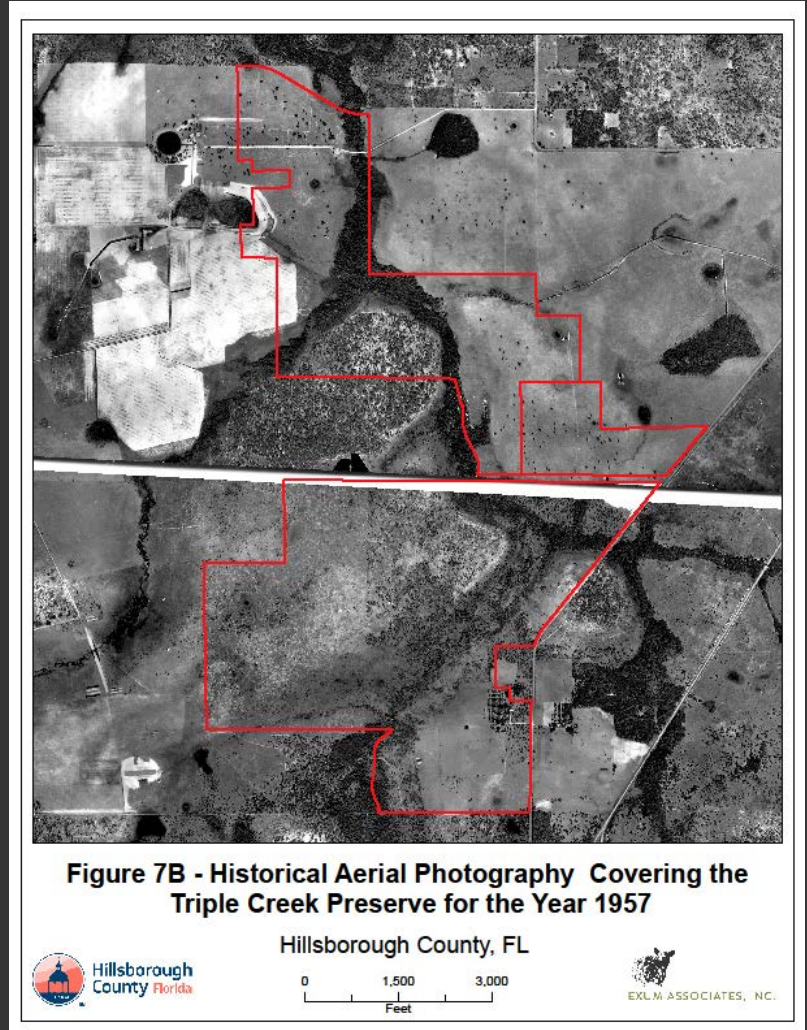
1938 Aerial Photograph of Triple Creek Preserve



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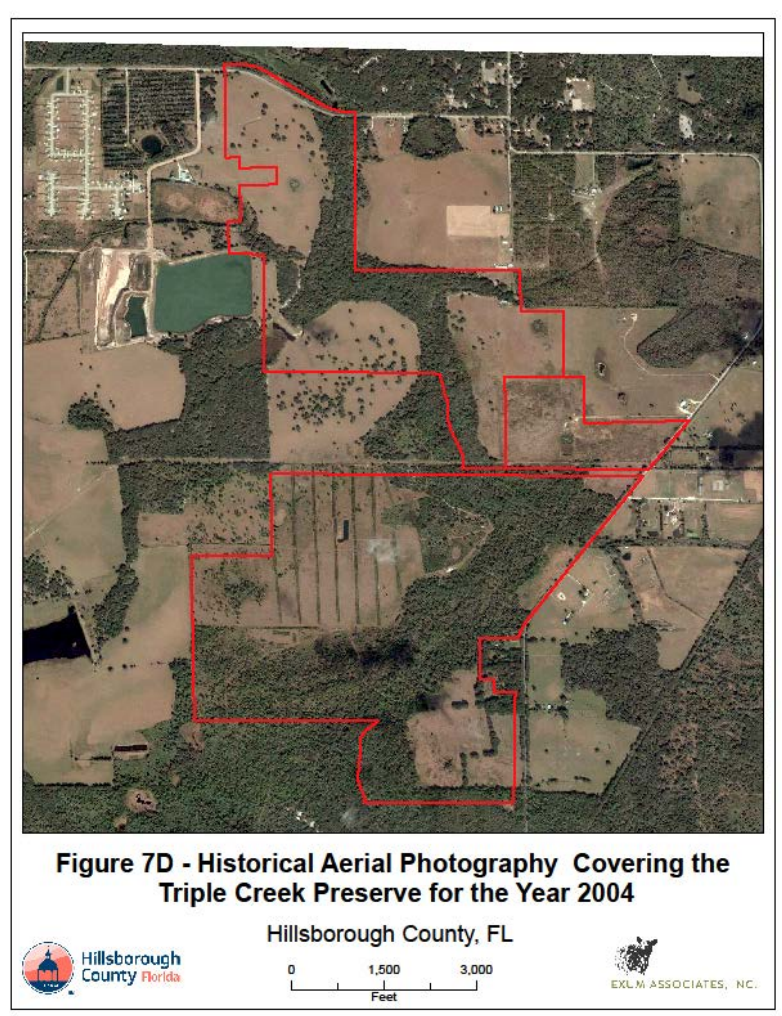
1957 Aerial Photograph of Triple Creek Preserve



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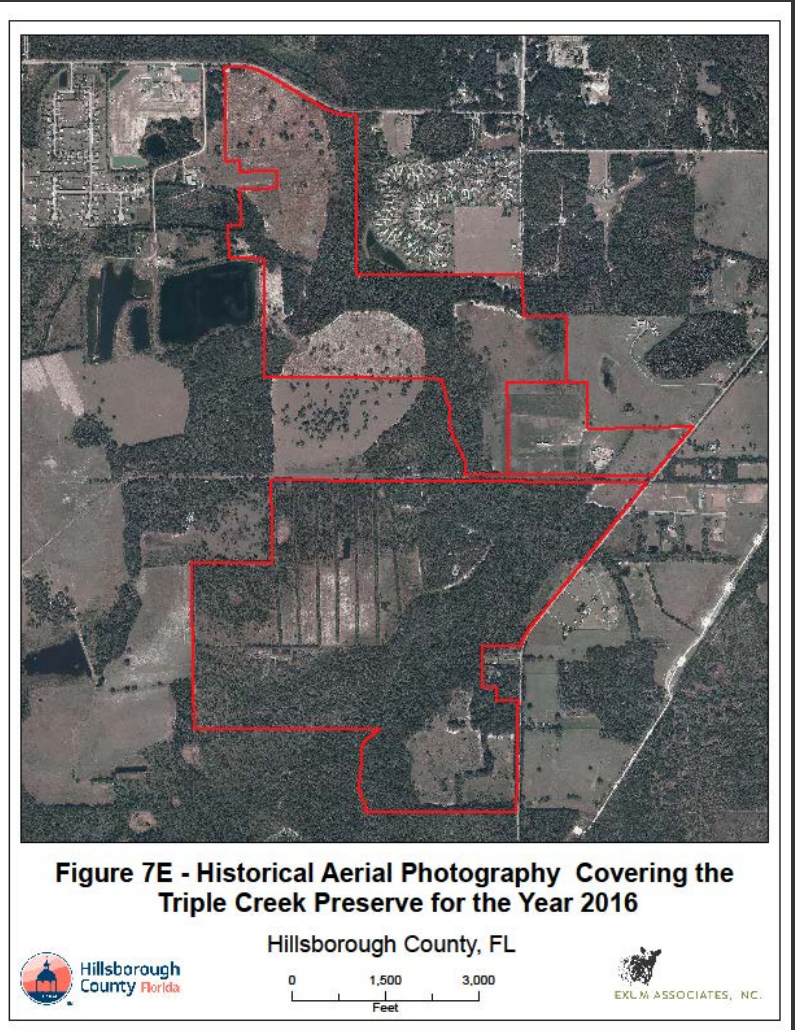
2004 Aerial Photograph of Triple Creek Preserve



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2016 Aerial Photograph of Triple Creek Preserve



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Requirements of the FCT Grant Awards:

- The identification of known natural resources including natural communities, listed plant and animal species, soil types, and surface and groundwater characteristics,
- A detailed description of all proposed uses including existing and proposed physical improvements and the impact on natural resources,
- A detailed description of proposed restoration or enhancement activities...
- Approximately 60 acres of degraded upland shall be restored to a natural community within Triple Creek Phase 1 and approximately 158 acres of degraded uplands shall be restored in Triple Creek Phase 2.
- The flow of Boggy Creek shall be restored by replacing a failed culvert with a bridge crossing thereby improving the hydrology and enhancing the wetlands in terms of biological composition and ecological function.

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Key Accomplishments since Completion of the Original Management Plans:

- An invasive exotic plant and animal eradication and control program has been implemented,
- Prescribed burning has taken place in defined management units,
- Restoration of historical plant diversity was initiated through seeding or plantings,
- A recreation plan was prepared and initial phases have been constructed.
- Repair and replacement of key culverts along several creek systems has been completed,
- Data have been collected on native plants and animals that occur on Triple Creek.

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During this Management Plan Update:

The Florida Cooperative Land Cover (CLC) was used to refine the map of natural communities on the Triple Creek Preserve. Using historical and current aerial photography, and field reconnaissance across Triple Creek, these maps were edited to reflect the existing community descriptions

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CLC Community Types on Triple Creek Preserve

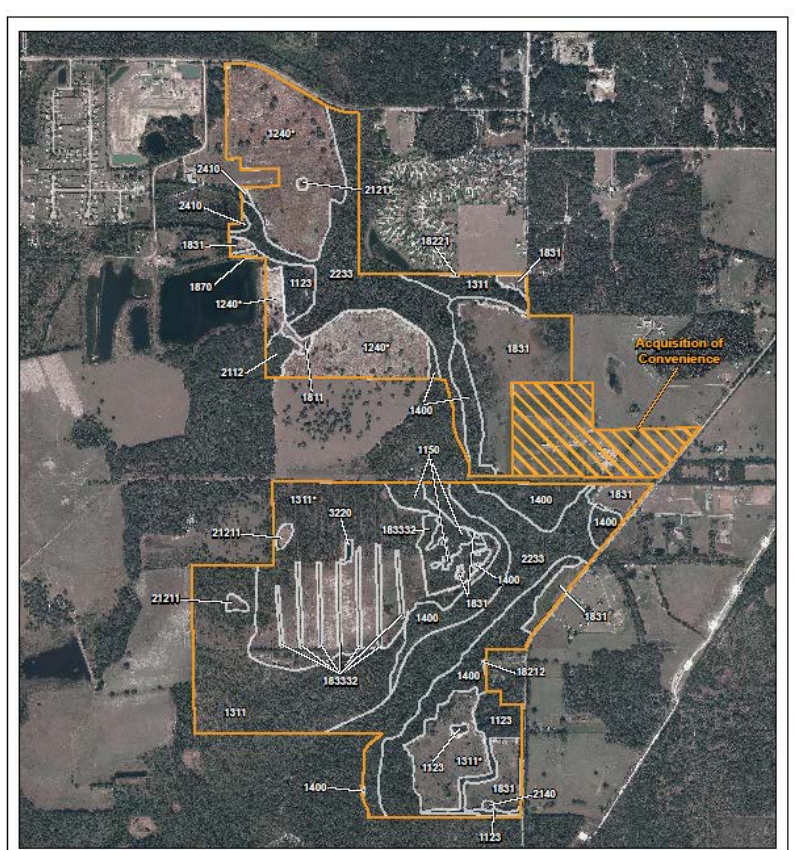
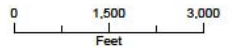


Figure 5 - Habitat Types of the Triple Creek Preserve

Hillsborough County, FL



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Mixed Wetland Hardwoods:
179.0 acres



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Mesic Flatwoods Under Restoration:
178.1 acres



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Sandhill Under Restoration:
139.2 acres

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Mesic Flatwoods:
124.6 acres



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Mixed Hardwood Conifer:
105.6 acres



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Rural Open:
89.2 acres



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Live Oak:
28.0 acres



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Coniferous Plantations:

26.8 acres



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Xeric Hammock:
12.5 acres



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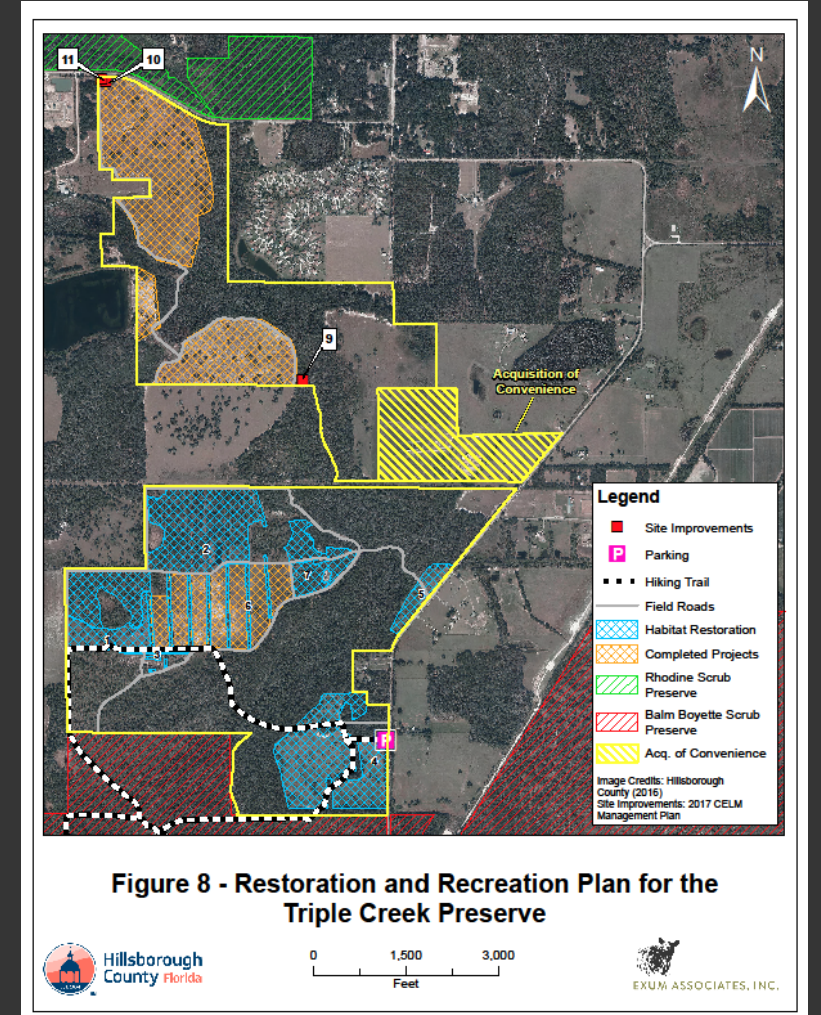
Depression Marsh:
6.3 acres



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Restoration and Recreation Plan for Triple Creek Preserve



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Management Units on Triple Creek Preserve

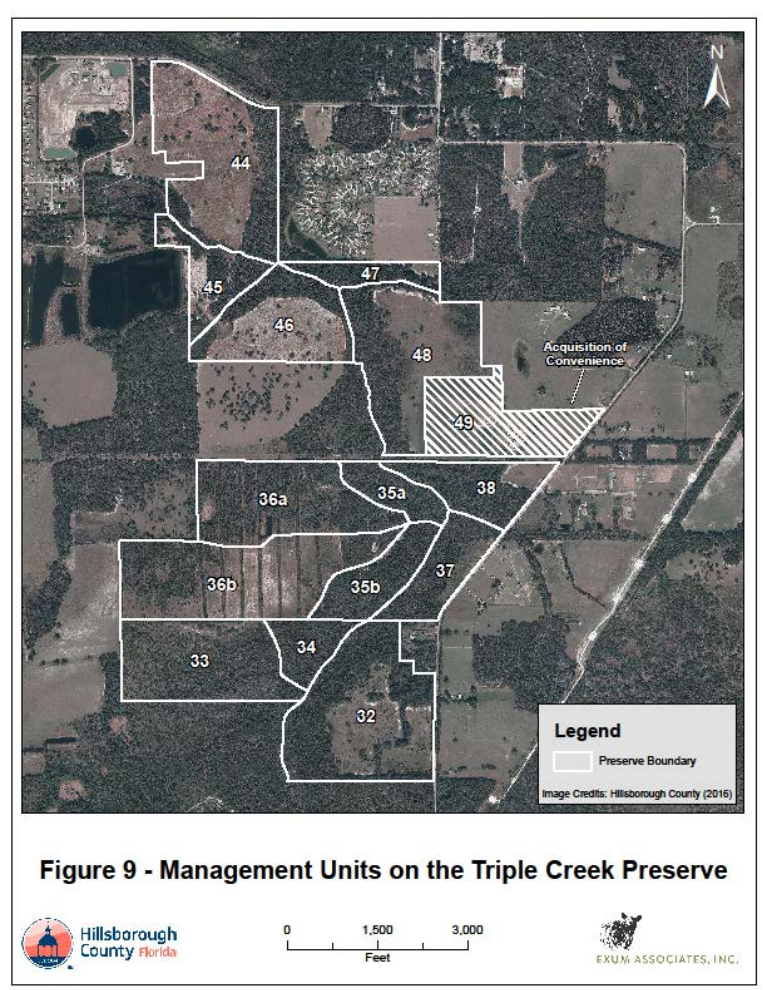


Figure 9 - Management Units on the Triple Creek Preserve

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Habitat Management Elements of the Plan Update:

Objectives for:

- upland and wetland restoration,
- listed species management,
- invasive exotic species removal and
- hydrological restoration are summarized.

Future staffing requirements and financial budgets are provided.

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Upland Community Restoration and Management

- Remove cattle,
- Treat invasive exotic plants,
- Remove or control wild pigs and Argentine black and white tegus,
- Re-establish native plant material, and
- Restore a natural fire regime.

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Wetland Community Restoration and Management:

- Remove cattle,
- Treat exotic plants,
- Remove or control wild pigs and Argentine black and white tegus,
- Re-establish natural hydroperiods of wetlands and flow-ways,
- Re-establish native plant material,
- Restore a natural fire regime (including fire exclusion).

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Desired Future Conditions: Habitat Restoration and Improvement:

- Natural upland communities are characterized by representative native biological diversity, the planned fire regime, structural diversity appropriate for the community, and use by native species of wildlife pursuant to the criteria of the CLC.

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Indicators of Success:

- Resource management objectives are established for each management unit, these objectives are reflected in the Annual Work Plan, and there is measurable progress on each objective, each year.

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Site Monitoring:

- Periodic reviews to assess security issues, document site conditions, obtain photos from pre-determined stations.
- Qualitative assessment of restoration activities, encroachment by invasive exotic species, and a general review of the dominant habitats.
- Quantitative monitoring on restoration projects.

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Herbicide Treatment on Triple Creek Preserve



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Prevalence of natalgrass to be treated on Triple Creek Preserve



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**Listed Species: Gopher Tortoise
Burrow on Triple Creek Preserve**

