

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Old Brick Road

Tiger Bay State Forest is named for the largest of many swamps within its boundaries. Besides Tiger Bay there are other swamps including Bennett Swamp, Little Tiger Bay and the Middle Haw Creek floodplain. These wetlands are critical to surface water storage and aquifer recharge in the area. Water originating from deep within the forest swamps eventually forms the headwaters of the Little Tomoka River which transitions into one of the most popular recreational fishing rivers in Central Florida, the Tomoka River.

More than 2 miles of the Pershing Highway, an amazing old brick road, has survived for almost 100 years on what is now Tiger Bay State Forest. Portions of this historic landmark are accessible to the public for a leisurely stroll to experience this little known secret of the forest.

Love the state forests? So do we!

The Friends of Florida State Forests is a direct-support organization of the Florida Forest Service dedicated to ensuring Florida's state forests are available for future generations to enjoy. Make a difference by joining today to help protect Florida's forests.

Membership dues go to the forests for conservation and improvement projects. To join Friends or for more information, visit:

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Tiger Bay State Forest

- Drive on designated roads only.
- Unlicensed vehicles, unlicensed motorcycles and ATVs are not allowed on the forest.
- Horses and bicycles are allowed only on named or numbered roads, firelines and designated trails.
- Do not make new roads or trails.
- Take all garbage with you when you leave the forest.
- Plants and animals are protected. Do not remove or destroy these natural resources.
- Primitive camping is available at the Bennett Field Campground and the Tram Road Equestrian Campground on Rima Ridge Road. Authorization is required for camping. Campsites can be reserved through Reserve America online at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com or by calling (877) 879-3859 or (800) 373-3851 (TDD).
- Visitors may be required to pay entrance or recreation use fees in designated areas. Annual Day Use Entrance Passes are available. All entrance passes are handled through our online payment system at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.
- We encourage all visitors to check the Wildlife Management Area regulations and season dates before visiting the forest. For further information visit: www.MyFWC.com.

For more information, visit:

www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

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Florida Forest Service

Tiger Bay State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

Tiger Bay, the largest physiographic feature within Tiger Bay State Forest was formed from an ancient marine terrace located between two historic dunes, the DeLand Ridge and the Daytona Ridge. Historical features found on Tiger Bay State Forest include Tiger Bay Canal, Dukes Island Canal, and portions of the Pershing Highway. The Pershing Highway, constructed in 1917 from brick, connected DeLand and Daytona Beach.

Most of the state forest area was historically managed for timber production and naval stores by private industry until state acquisition.

The initial acquisition of Tiger Bay State Forest was completed in 1979 under the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Additional parcels were acquired using Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever funds between 1994 and 2004. The largest addition was in 1997 when more than 11,000 acres were acquired with both Preservation 2000 and Save Our River funds as a joint acquisition project with the St. Johns River Water Management District. This area is now known as the Rima Ridge Tract.

Forestry

Forest management practices on Tiger Bay State Forest are important in the restoration and maintenance of forest ecosystems and provide a variety of benefits to Floridians. Timber harvesting activities follow the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services guide to Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The devastating wildfires of 1998 burned almost half of the forest. An aggressive reforestation program resulted in the replanting of these areas. Tiger Bay State Forest is designated for multiple-use management under the direction of the Florida Forest Service.

The use of prescribed fire by the Florida Forest Service is an effective tool in controlling hardwoods and improving ecological function and wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire is applied to mimic natural fires and helps to reduce the hazard of wildfires. To maintain access to the different resources and fight wildfire, the forest has an extensive network of roads.



Old Pershing Highway



Woody Pond



Indian Lake Recreational Area

For more information contact:
Florida Forest Service
4316 West International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32124
386-317-3277
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

Scattered pine forests historically made up about half of the forest's 27,389 acres. The other half of the forest is composed of wetlands, including bay and cypress swamps. Slash and longleaf pines dominate many areas of the upland forest today.

Also found on the forest are two lakes, Indian Lake and Scoggin Lake, and several ponds. Coon Pond is a natural water body, while Rattlesnake Pond, Woody Pond and Ranch Pond are man-made ponds that are available to the public for fishing. Three additional unnamed man-made ponds are also located on the forest.

The forest is part of an extensive wildlife corridor for the Florida black bear, deer, fox, turkey, hogs and many types of birds. Bald eagles can also be seen within the forest.

Recreation

Recreational opportunities include fishing and small boat access, picnicking, camping, and hunting. Miles of trails and roads are available for horseback riding, hiking, and bicycling. Abundant wildlife and many diverse ecosystems provide opportunities for nature study, wildlife viewing, and photography.

Visitor parking is available at the forest field office. Ranch Pond, located at the office, is available for fishing and picnicking. Rattlesnake Pond and Bear Pond are located south of US 92 and are available for hiking, fishing, and boating. The Rima Ridge Tract has picnic tables, grills, a restroom, a two-mile interpretive trail and lake access at the Indian Lake Recreation Area (fee area). On the north side of the Rima Ridge Tract there is a parking area and trailhead for the multi-use trail. The Tram Road Equestrian Area (fee area) offers a day use area including a pavilion, horse stalls, picnic tables and equestrian camping. Primitive camping is also available at Bennett Field Campground and the Bennett Field Group Camp on Rima Ridge Road.

Several lakes and ponds are located throughout the forest. Indian Lake and Scoggin Lake are accessible for fishing and boating (electric motors only). Coon Pond, Rattlesnake Pond, Bear Pond, Woody Pond, and Ranch Pond are available for shoreline fishing.