

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

The Florida Forest Service voluntarily participates in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative program integrates the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soils, and water.

Four Creeks State Forest is certified to the SFI forest management standards. We are proud to be part of a growing community of landowners, conservation groups and responsible companies all working towards improving forest management.



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 State Forests.

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

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Four Creeks State Forest

- Day-use visitors are allowed from 1 1/2 hours before sunrise to 1 1/2 hours after sunset.
- Drive on designated roads only; speed limit 15 mph.
- Unlicensed vehicles, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles are prohibited on the forest.
- Foot traffic, bicycles and horses are welcome on forest roads, firelines and designated trails only.
- The creation of new roads or trails is not permitted.
- Please take all garbage with you where receptacles are not provided.
- Please use caution while boating. Rope swings are prohibited and diving is not allowed into streams or rivers. Be courteous of non-motorized crafts and respect wildlife.
- Visitors may be required to pay entrance or recreation use fees in designated areas. Day use or annual passes are available in the webstore at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com.
- Leashed dogs are welcome.
- For additional information, contact Four Creeks State Forest, Monday-Friday, 8a.m.-5p.m., at (904) 845-4933 or (904) 845-3597 on weekends.
- Hunting requires a permit and license and is allowed only in designated areas during appropriate seasons. We encourage all visitors to check the Wildlife Management Area regulations and hunt season dates before visiting the forest at www.MyFWC.com.

For more information, visit:

www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

DACS-P-02003 Rev. 8-2026



Florida Forest Service

Four Creeks State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

Four Creeks State Forest was acquired in 2005 as part of the Northeast Florida Timberlands and Watershed Reserve Project using Florida Forever funds. The forest was named after the four water systems that transverse its boundaries. The land that comprises Four Creeks has played an important role in the commerce of north Florida, beginning in the 1800's with the growth and expansion of the railroad industry in Nassau County. Several large railways were constructed during this time, including David Yulee's Florida Railroad, which ran parallel to the northern boundary of the forest. Several smaller rail spurs actually crossed through the forest, remnants of which can still be found. These railways would move pine and cypress lumber from Nassau County to the ports of downtown Jacksonville. By the 1900's, the railroad spurs were abandoned. After several decades of turpentine and cattle grazing, the land was sold to various industrial forest products companies. An era of intensive pine management for pulpwood production began, continuing until state acquisition.

Forestry

The Florida Forest Service conducts certain silvicultural practices on this forest, including timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and reforestation. Timber management plays an integral role in the restoration and maintenance of the forest ecosystem. Management of timber resources on this forest includes thinning dense pine plantations, promoting natural regeneration in older timber stands and clear cutting off-site species. Reforestation activities utilize site-specific management methods to select the most appropriate tree species for reforest action. The prescribed burning program is considered to be one of the primary management tools used on this forest. A small sample of the management objectives that are achieved through the use of prescribed fire include ecological maintenance and restoration, improving wildlife habitat, controlling disease and pests, reducing wildfire danger, improving access and aesthetic value. The overall purpose of the burn program is to reduce dangerous wildland fuel loading while working to restore, maintain and protect all native ecosystems and their ecological processes.



Hobbs Landing



Paddling on Mills Creek



Iris and Butterfly

For more information contact:
Four Creeks State Forest
3742 Clint Drive Hilliard, FL 32046
(904) 904-845-4933
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

Eleven different natural communities can be found across the 13,658 acres that comprise Four Creeks State Forest, with bottomland hardwoods, mesic and wet flatwoods being the dominant communities.

Of the 11 communities, nine are considered wetland community types. These wetland communities perform essential roles in the protection of water quality, groundwater recharge, flood control and aquatic habitat preservation. These wetlands, combined with the creek systems, not only provide a natural environment ideal for native flora, fauna, and outdoor recreation but they also help to provide clean water for the citizens of north Florida.

Wildlife common to Four Creeks State Forest includes whitetail deer, wild turkey, gopher tortoise, wild hog and numerous song birds. These communities also support several rare and/or threatened species of flora and fauna, including the American alligator, gopher tortoise, painted bunting, blueflower butterwort and hooded pitcher plant.

Recreation

Four Creeks State Forest offers recreation activities for all visitors. The forest is open during daylight hours for picnicking, hiking, canoeing, horseback riding, fishing, boating, biking and wildlife viewing.

Canoeing or kayaking on the creeks is an activity that many visitors enjoy. Due to the diverse network of waterways, one can choose a leisurely paddle through the salt marsh systems of Thomas Creek or challenge themselves to canoe underneath the closed canopy, black water system of Alligator Creek, complete with tidal fluctuations and frequent portages. Canoe or kayak entry is available from any of the four landings which include Hobbs', Saul's, Boggy Creek and Thomas Creek Landings.

Four Creeks State Forest is open to regulated hunting and fishing under the direction of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and remains open to normal recreational activities during scheduled hunts.