

Nature & History

Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park protects one of the largest contiguous areas of coastal uplands remaining in Duval County, preserving approximately 4,000 acres of upland habitat bordered by tidal marshlands along the St. Johns and Nassau rivers. These upland ecosystems are crucial in maintaining water quality and providing healthy habitat for plants and animals. The abundant plants and wildlife range from gopher tortoises, bald eagles, and white-tailed deer to pitcher plants and wildflowers.

The park contains ten distinct natural communities including scrubby flatwoods, cypress dome, sandhill, maritime hammock, mesic flatwoods, and estuarine tidal marsh. Fire management plays a vital role in maintaining the health of these communities. The park is adjacent to the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve managed by the National Park Service, which protects more than 46,000 acres of undeveloped estuarine habitat.

The Timucuan Indians called Pumpkin Hill home and were later joined by French explorer Jean Ribault in 1562. During the late 1800s, the turpentine industry was in full swing. Pine trees were tapped and terracotta cups were attached to collect the sap which was used to make turpentine and rosin. The cuts left behind were known as "cat faces." Few cat faced trees remain since many were later cut when the area was logged for timber products.

According to local history, before the land was set aside for conservation a one-room schoolhouse, an oyster processing plant, sawmills, and a private hunt club existed at different times on the property.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park

13802 Pumpkin Hill Road
Jacksonville, FL 32226
(904) 696-5980

FloridaStateParks.org



Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park

Northeast
Florida

*Pine flatwoods nestled within
undisturbed tidal creeks.*



Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. The collection, destruction or disturbance of plants, animals or park property is prohibited.
- Pets are allowed in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and be well-behaved at all times.
- Fishing is allowed in designated areas. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks, intoxicants, and hunting are prohibited.
- Please stay on designated trail systems. Short cuts can cause erosion and permanently alter the natural vegetation.
- All speed limits in the park are enforced.
- Collection of firewood is prohibited.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

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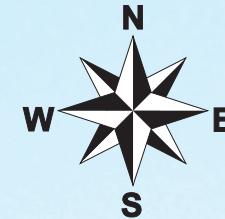
Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

A visit to Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park offers a variety of fun experiences. Water activities include fishing, and canoeing or kayaking on peaceful tidal creeks. For those who like to stay a little drier, the park offers hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, birding, nature study, and picnicking.

Visitors can enjoy a total of 3.6 miles of hiking or biking trails that include short trail spurs to wildlife viewing areas or secret fishing spots. An interpretive trail leads visitors from the main parking area to the Park Office where they can see displays comparing native and non-native plants. In addition to these short trails, visitors can experience a 11.5 mile multi-use trail that traverses between Pumpkin Hill Creek and three nearby city parks. Adventure seekers can take part in numerous geocaching opportunities found throughout the trail networks. All trails are accessible from the main parking area off Pumpkin Hill Road.

There are three access points to pristine tidal creeks adjacent to the park property. One provides a hand launch area for canoes or kayaks to access Pumpkin Hill Creek. Whether fishing from the shore or a boat, these creeks have enormous potential for catching fish such as redfish, flounder, and sea trout.

Take some time out to relax and enjoy all there is to do at Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State.



Directions

From I-95 or I-295, exit Heckscher Drive east. Turn north on New Berlin Road, then east on Cedar Point Road or 4 miles, turn north on Pumpkin Hill Road. The main trailhead will be on the left side of the road. Further up on the right will be the canoe/kayak launch area.

