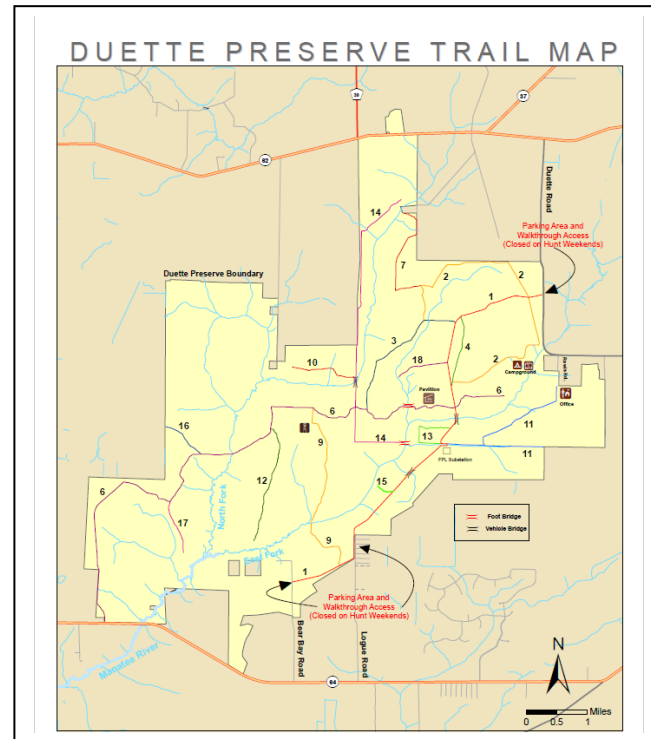




Duette Preserve

has many layers of cultural history beginning with evidence of an early Native American settlement and the pioneer settlement of Manatee County. Dating back to prehistoric times, the Duette area was occupied by native americans. The preserve contains cultural resources including a pre-historic settlement mound site, called Carruthers Mound, which is thought to date from 1300-1700 A.D. Old homesteads found at Duette Preserve which include the Rands Site, Turner Site, and a third significant site, still being researched, in the vicinity of Keentown, contain remnants that provide evidence of pioneer occupation by settlers arriving from the north.

In the 1920's, individuals and companies from across the nation recognized Florida's forests as a valuable money-making resource. Local timbering and turpentine production from slash and longleaf pine was the predominant use at Duette Preserve tract, followed later by cattle ranching and limited row crop production. In the 1960s large tracts of land were acquired by several phosphate mining companies who made plans for strip mining to obtain phosphate ore. Manatee County purchased a majority of the preserve from three phosphate companies in two major voter-approved acquisitions in 1984 and 1986 to protect the Lake Manatee reservoir and watershed.



Duette Preserve



Manatee County Parks & Natural Resources
 Duette Preserve
 2649 Rawls Road
 Duette, Florida 34219
 Phone: 941-737-2661

Duette Preserve

is composed of over 21,000 acres of land located in eastern Manatee County.

This unique property is owned and managed by the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners. As the headwaters of the Manatee River, the Preserve was originally purchased to provide protection for Manatee County's municipal water supply. Duette Preserve also protects and enhances the native plant communities and a diversity of wildlife that inhabit these areas. Many of these species are imperiled and many are found only in Florida.

Plant communities(habitats) found in the Preserve include pine flatwoods, hardwood swamps, scrub, depression marsh, and cypress dome. Rare species include the Florida scrub jay, gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, wood stork, Florida bonamia, and lowland loostrife among many others .

Manatee County's goal at Duette Preserve is to return the natural ecosystems to conditions as they existed prior to historic agricultural land alterations. To work towards this goal, land management techniques employed include removal of invasive-exotic plants; returning fire to the landscape with prescribed fire applications to mimic natural, lightning-initiated fire periods in fire-dependent/maintained habitats; use of mechanical equipment to reduce overgrown vegetation occurring as a result of fire suppression from prior land use; blocking ditches to restore natural hydrology; and planting native trees to restore historic pine forests.



A C T I V I T I E S

Picnicking, horseback riding, bicycling, hiking, wildlife viewing, and fishing are activities enjoyed at Duette Preserve.

HORSEBACK RIDING: Proof of a negative Coggins test must be available upon request for each horse. Horses are not provided.

FISHING: available throughout the Preserve, subject to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulations.

WILDLIFE VIEWING: a variety of birds and wildlife can be seen throughout the Preserve in a variety of native ecosystems.



OFFICE HOURS:

Saturday 11:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Office Station located at 2649 Rawls Road

PRESERVE ENTRANCES:

(Walk-through access)

1. Trail 1 East Entrance located on Duette Road, 1 mile north of Rawls Road
2. Trail 1 West Entrance located on Bear Bay Road as well as Logue Road

C A M P I N G

*Tent camping on Saturday nights.
Friday nights by reservation only.*

*Please call 941-737-2661
to make reservation.*

- Camping is primitive. Bathroom on site. No water or power available on site.
- Camping fees are \$20.00 per site/per night, plus tax. Cash or Check Only. No credit cards.
- Camping permitted at campground only.
- A maximum of 6 adults will be allowed to occupy a single tent campsite.
- Persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- No generators permitted.
- Pets are allowed, but must be on a leash at all times.
- Campfires are permitted, except during burn bans issued by Florida Forest Service. Firewood is not available and collecting is not permitted. Fireworks are not permitted.
- Please do not cut trees or shrubs or remove any plant or animal.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m until sunrise.

H U N T I N G

See hunting brochure online at
www.mymanatee.org/parks

Public
hunting is
available

