

Our Natural Places

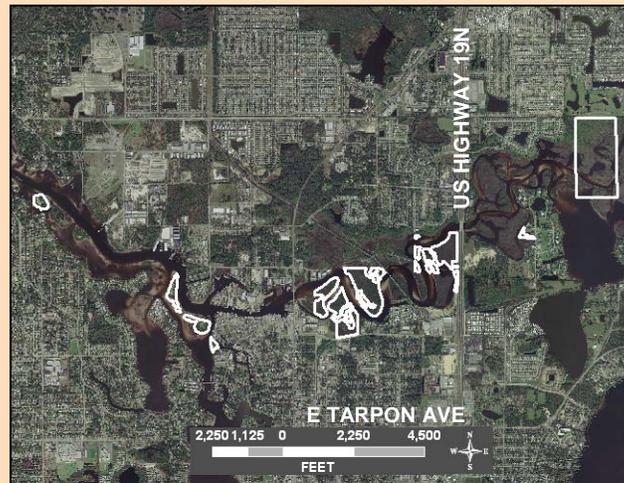
Pinellas County

Management Brief

Anclote Islands Management Area

At A Glance...

- 158 acres in size
- Located near Tarpon Springs, FL
- Supports tidal swamp and tidal marsh natural communities



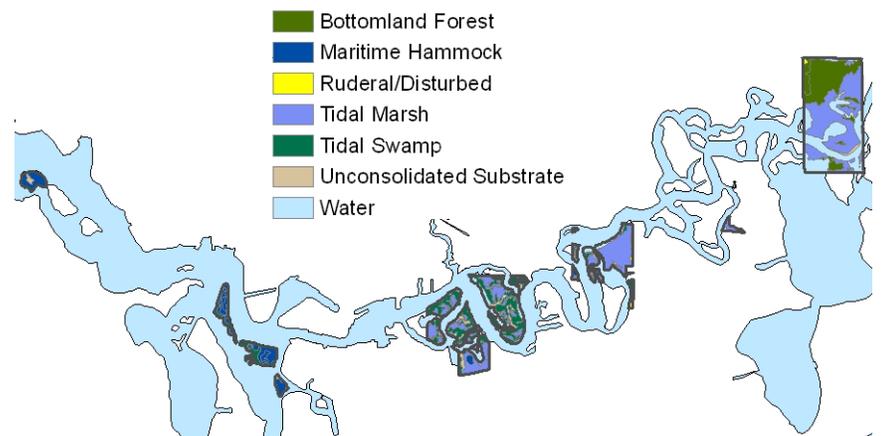
Background

The Anclote Islands Management Area is located in the city of Tarpon Springs and unincorporated Pinellas County. While the areas surrounding the Anclote River have undergone dramatic urban development over time, historic aerial photographs indicate that relatively little change has occurred to the Anclote Islands Management Area's parcels. The installation of US Highway 19, along with an entrance road to the Anclote Bend

Subdivision, resulted in disturbance to upland sandhills. The management area was acquired from the mid 1990's to 2004 by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. The property is managed by the Department of Parks & Conservation Resources.

Characteristics

Located within the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin, this management area is dominated hydrologically by the Anclote River and associated tidal action. The parcels comprising this management area stretch from Salt Lake west to nearly the mouth of the Anclote River, which outfalls directly to the Gulf of Mexico. Elevations range up to several feet above sea level, with many portions of the management area permanently inundated. The dominant soil types are mucks and fine sands that support tidal swamp and tidal marsh communities. The tidal swamps consist primarily of red and black mangroves, but also support buttonbush, glasswort, cordgrass, needlerush, and sea purslane. The tidal marshes are dominated by black rushes, but also



Dominant natural communities of the Anclote Islands Management Area.

Anclote Islands Management Area

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support bulrushes, cordgrass, and saltwort. These communities provide habitat for a wide variety of saltwater fishes and wading birds. Because this management areas has not been heavily disturbed, exotic species are not as predominant a problem as at some other natural areas.



View of the Anclote Islands Management Area.

Management



Exotic species are periodically removed to maintain healthy mangroves.

Management of this area was assumed in 1998 with additional acquisitions made in 2001. Occasional patrols and initial vegetation and wildlife species inventories have been conducted. Due to the good natural conditions of these parcels, little hands-on management has been required. The mangrove swamps and salt marshes are intact, many with no exotic vegetation encroachment. Management activities have focused on posting the boundary and controlling exotic vegetation, primarily Brazilian pepper on some island fringes and Australian pines on the three small western-most islands.

Value

The Anclote Island Management Area has special significance to local residents, and provides economic and environmental benefits to its neighbors. However, this natural space, similar to others within Pinellas County, provides valuable services to all residents and visitors to the region. By protecting native biodiversity, it supports countless organisms ranging from microbes to mammals. For example, numerous estuarine species utilize the management area including snook, blue crabs, and mullet. This area also makes important contributions to the region's hydrology by safeguarding the Anclote River's naturally meandering flow pattern.



The Anclote Islands Management Area provides habitat to many native species.

For additional information:

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