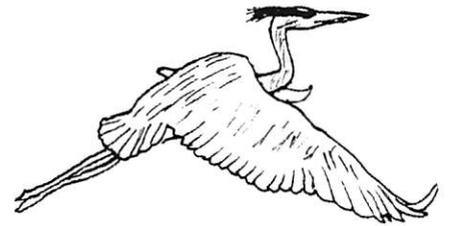


# Timucuan

Ecological & Historic Preserve  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

*"People are waking up to the fact that there's not much left."*

Willie Browne



Discovery and diversity describe the areas within the Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve. Varied wildlife and plantlife thrive in the wetland and upland habitats of the Preserve. Historically, people have lived and depended upon the rivers, creeks and wetland areas for thousands of years. Timucuan people witnessed the coming of strangely dressed visitors with new customs from far away places. The promise of personal freedom and new riches inspired Europeans to seek new lands in this part of our continent. The French, Spanish and British attempted to establish permanent settlements but failed. People from the African continent also made their homes here in great numbers, though for very different reasons. Although laboring as slaves in the salt air of the upland, river valley islands, these people maintained a distinct and enduring African-American culture which has become a valuable part of our American heritage.



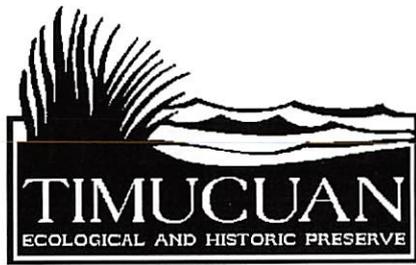
The Atlantic Ocean, Nassau River and la Riviere de May, later to be known as the St. Johns River, continue to provide life giving water to the biological and human populations thriving within the Preserve boundaries. Human artifacts and structures tell of past and current struggles that took place and continue to occur in this hot and wet environment. River breezes whisper stories of French and Timucuan struggles to comprehend a changing world.

The strains of African people working open fields in a harsh environment echo in the pine and oak woodlands that have today reclaimed the land. Jean Ribault, Rene de Laudonniere, Sauriwa, Zephaniah Kingsley, Francisco Pareja, John Bartram and Willie Browne are names associated with the long human history of the Timucuan Preserve. Wood storks, great blue herons and marsh crabs carry out the daily work of survival in the

vast savannahs of spartina grass and needlerush. Alligators may appear in the fresh and brackish waters of the Preserve and remind us of wilderness.

The National Park Service seeks to preserve natural and cultural resources. The continued existence of the Timucuan Preserve ensures protection of important elements of our American heritage to be enjoyed now and for generations to come.





The 46,000 acre Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is nestled between northeast Florida's lower St. Johns and Nassau Rivers. Created in 1988 to protect wetlands, historic and prehistoric sites, the Timucuan Preserve provides opportunities to experience the struggles of early inhabitants of northeast Florida as well as enjoy various recreational activities.

Motorized boats can navigate the St. Johns and Nassau Rivers as well as some of the deeper tidal creeks. Those who wish to explore the salt marshes more thoroughly will need shallow draft vessels. Hiking, birding, photography, fishing and seasonal harvesting of shellfish are activities that many visitors enjoy.

A short walk at Fort Caroline National Memorial provides a glimpse into the past and the opportunity to understand the story of the ill fated colony at la Caroline.

A stroll through ruins of slave quarters at Kingsley Plantation allows one to experience the daily life of enslaved people contrasting with the life of the Plantation owner living nearby.

Walks through the Theodore Roosevelt Area of the Timucuan Preserve provide the opportunity to imagine a time when human inhabitants directly depended upon diverse biological resources in order to survive.

The integrity of private property rights lies at the heart of our national heritage. Since many uplands within the Preserve are privately owned, visitors must respect private property owners' rights and obtain permission before visiting any land not designated as public.

The complex interaction of natural, historic and recreational assets of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve makes this National Park area especially complex and significant. It will take all of us to help keep this Preserve healthy and available to all.

