

Spring Hammock Preserve Improvements

December 2017

Project Summary:

Spring Hammock Preserve is a 1,495 acre property on the west shore of Lake Jesup in Longwood. It is a well-known landmark to both residents and visitors with its oasis-like appearance in the midst of a growing urbanized area. The property includes Big Tree Park, Soldiers Creek Park and the Seminole County School Board-operated Environmental Studies Center. The Preserve is also traversed by the Cross Seminole Trail which includes the iconic trail bridge over US 17/92.



Soldiers Creek at Spring Hammock Preserve

Many of the constructed features within Spring Hammock Preserve are many decades old, have been battered by storms and floods, weakened by age and far outlasted their operational lifespan through extensive and costly repairs. Two of the primary boardwalks - the Lake Jesup Boardwalk and the Cypress Boardwalk - have structurally failed and have been closed to the general public for over two years due to unsafe conditions.

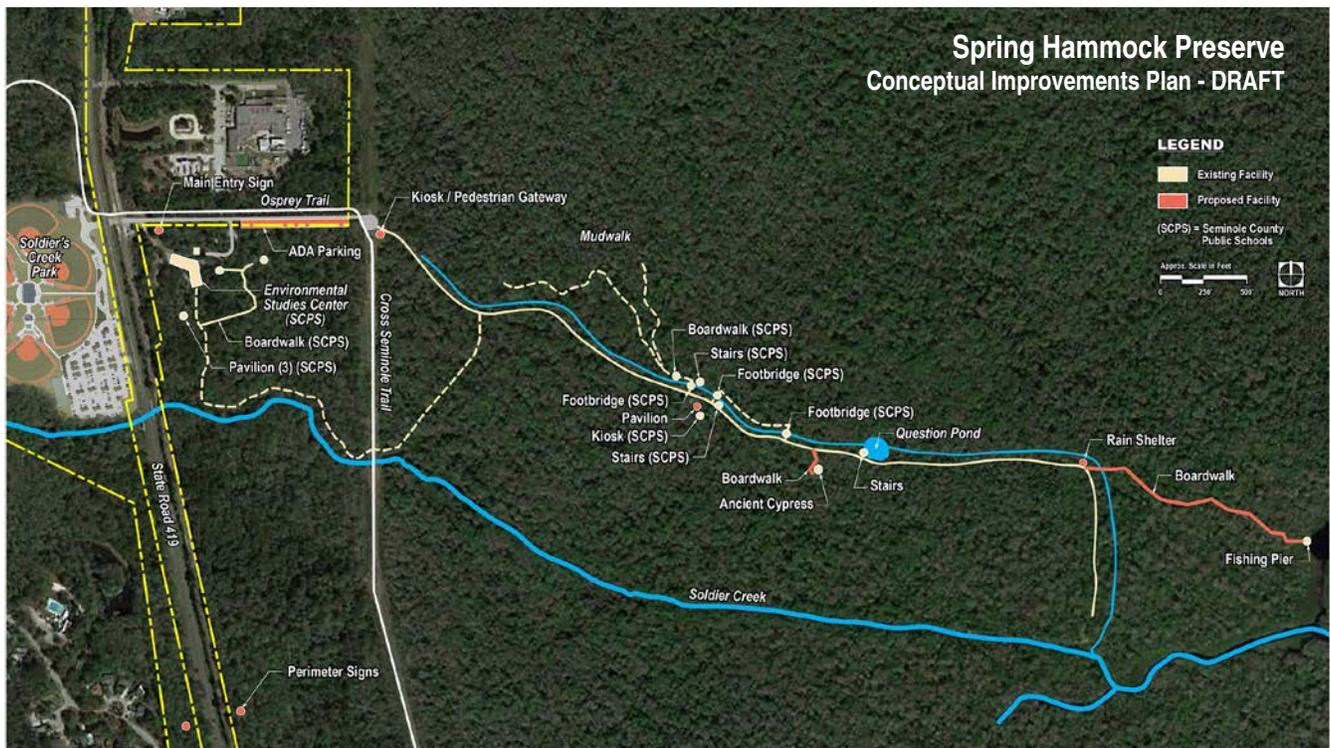
Preparation of a comprehensive inventory and existing assessment of the constructed features was conducted by County staff, including an estimate of probable replacement costs. This assessment included an updated agreement of maintenance responsibilities for constructed elements between the County and the School Board, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on September 19, 2017. The School Board has also completed maintenance improvements to structures required for safely conducting the Mud Walk Program.

Project Scope and Chronology:

The Spring Hammock Preserve Improvements project budget of \$745,807 was approved by the Board of County Commissioners as part of the County's FY 2017/2018 Annual Budget. The design and construction of these improvements is funded through the voter-approved Natural Lands Bond Fund. Preparation of detailed design and permitting drawings will be completed by the County's parks design consultants GAI, Inc. and will take place during the 2018 calendar year. The Preserve will remain operational during the construction of the proposed improvements.

The project includes the following anticipated improvements:

1. Lake Jesup Boardwalk Replacement:
 - a. Selection of a new alignment which is more accessible from Osprey Trail
 - b. Align new boardwalk to bring users in close proximity to field-located specimen old-growth cypress trees within the Preserve
 - c. Connect to the existing fishing pier on Lake Jesup
 - d. Demolition of existing (closed) boardwalk



Anticipated improvements (continued):

2. Cypress Boardwalk Replacement:
 - a. Route the new boardwalk alignment to a field-located specimen old growth Cypress tree
 - b. Create a seating area to be utilized for small group educational gatherings adjacent to the tree
 - c. Demolition of existing (closed) boardwalk
3. Small pavilion replacement
4. New rain shelter for hikers
5. ADA accessible parking
6. General parking area improvements
7. Fencing and pedestrian access improvements
8. Facility sign replacement and enhancements
9. Improved wayfinding, including wayfinding along the Cross Seminole Trail, existing natural-surface hiking trails and educational signs where applicable
10. Refurbishment of selected existing facility features, potentially including small steps and seating areas

For additional information, please contact:

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