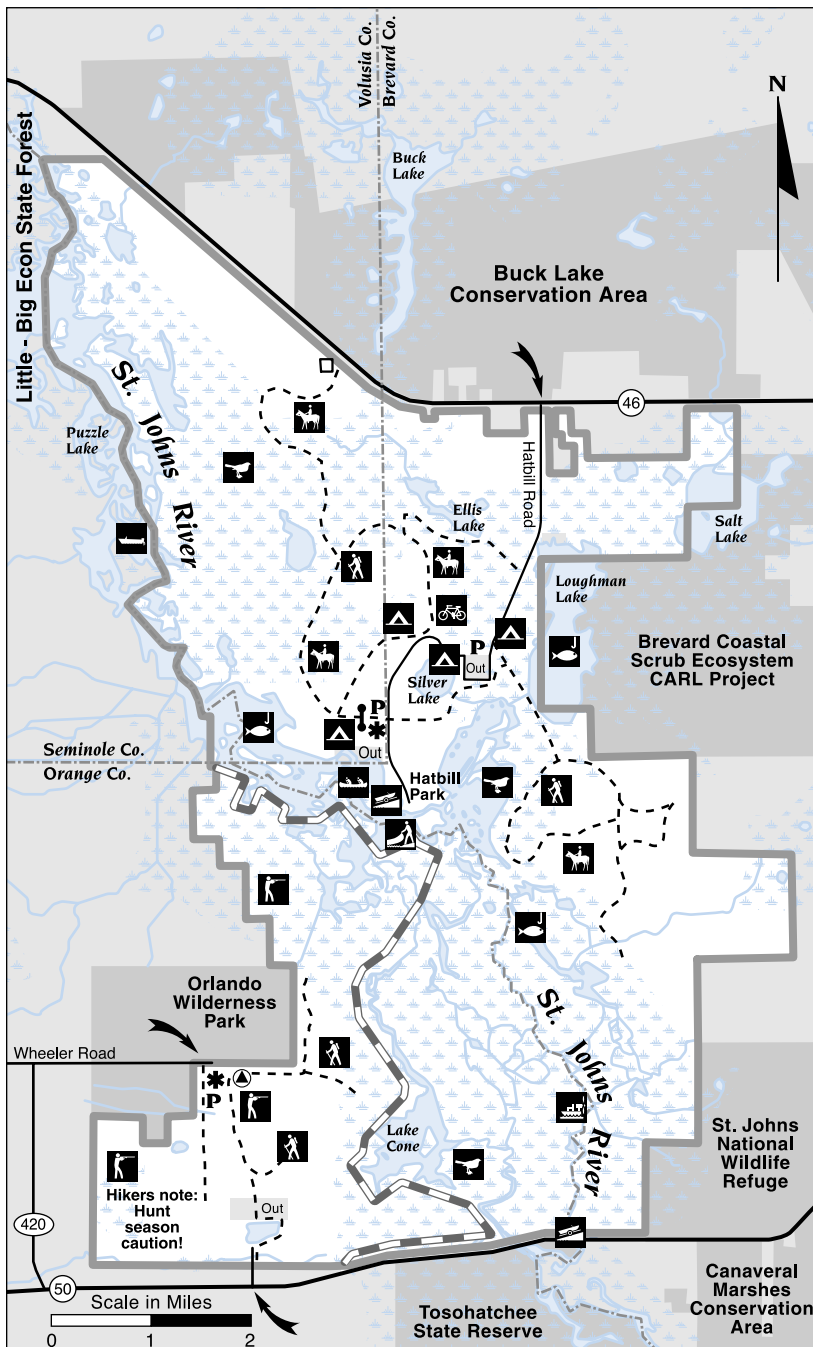


Seminole Ranch

CONSERVATION AREA



Size: 28,785 acres.

Location: At the convergence of Orange, Brevard, Volusia and Seminole counties, between SR 46 and SR 50, east of Orlando.

Description: This was the first acquisition in the state funded by the Save Our Rivers program to protect water resources. It includes 12 miles of the St. Johns River and is surrounded by the Little-Big Econ State Forest, the Tosohatchee State Reserve and the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge. The area helps to filter nutrients during seasonal flooding; 96 percent of the area is part of the St. Johns River floodplain. The unique plant community is supported by naturally salty water, which flows from small springs near Harney and Puzzle lakes. The salinity of small lakes in the area approaches one-third that of seawater. Many salt-tolerant and marine-dwelling organisms present here are not found anywhere else in the St. Johns River.

Wildlife viewing: A diversity of migratory and resident wading birds and waterfowl is frequently found at the conservation area. Occasional sightings of white ibis, roseate spoonbills, white pelicans, southern bald eagles and sandhill cranes make memorable visits.

Recreational activities: Seasonal hunting is allowed in the 6,000-acre wildlife management area. Year-round activities include fishing, horseback riding, primitive camping east of the river, hiking (4.3 miles of Florida National Scenic Trail — hikers please check hunt dates), canoeing, boating, bicycling, bird-watching, picnicking and nature study (see Using District Land section at the end of this document). The trails are seasonally flooded.

Restrictions: Category 4 (see Restrictions section at the end of this document).

Access: Vehicle access from SR 46 along Hatbill Road; from SR 50 to CR 420 and right onto Wheeler Road. Boat access from SR 50 at Midway Fish Camp or the Orange County public boat ramp on the St. Johns River and from the Hatbill Park boat ramp in the center of the property. Construction of an airboat launch on the north side of SR 50 at the St. Johns River began in 1999.

For more information: Call the District's Division of Land Management at (407) 893-3127. For hunting information, see the Hunting section at the end of this document.

