

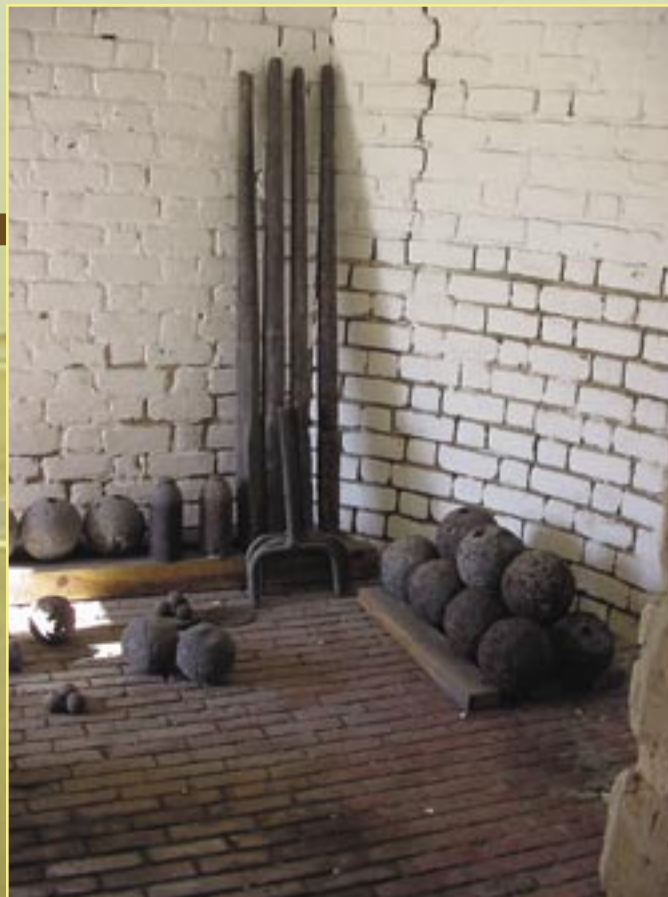
Welcome to Fort Clinch State Park. While you are here experience the diversity of Florida's northernmost barrier island. Although the Civil War era fort is the main attraction, don't miss the beautiful beaches and scenic hiking trails.

Natural Communities

Within this 1153-acre park are several natural communities. *Maritime hammocks*, with large Spanish moss-draped live oaks, are prevalent. *Coastal grasslands* meet the hammocks and stretch along the shore behind dunes on the Atlantic Ocean and Cumberland Sound. Both areas offer great wildlife viewing and are home to gopher tortoises, deer, raccoon, bobcat, and numerous species of birds and reptiles.

Willow Pond Trail winds around a series of freshwater ponds that offer prime habitat for alligators and turtles. Egan's Creek Marsh borders the west boundary of the park, providing a *saltwater estuary* for an abundance of marine life. The *salt marsh* offers excellent scenic vistas and views of many species of wading birds while the *beaches* provide a critical foraging and nesting habitat for colonial shorebirds and sea turtles. Please respect posted areas, and give resting birds a wide berth

Large relic dunes throughout the park provide a varied topography along the hiking/off-road biking trail -great for studying the diversity of plant and animal life found in several different plant communities at Fort Clinch State Park.



Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Fort Clinch State Park

2601 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 277-7274

Fort & Visitor Center open 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

www.floridastateparks.org/fortclinch

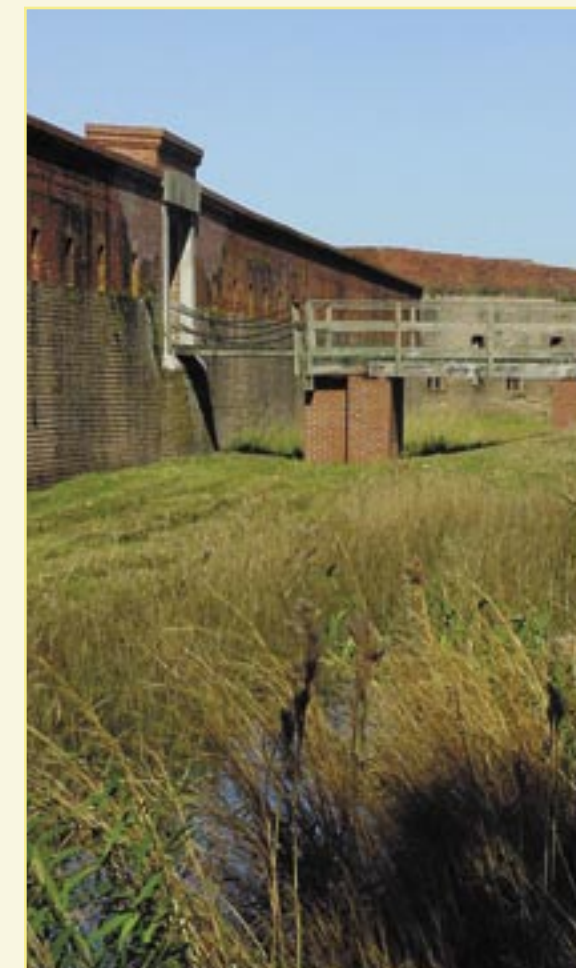
Park Guidelines

- For your safety: please do not feed or attempt to touch any animals.
- Intoxicants, fireworks and firearms are prohibited.
- Cannonballs or other ordnance could be encountered in the vicinity of Fort Clinch. **These may be extremely dangerous and should not be approached.** If you see a cannonball or similar projectile, contact a park staff member immediately.
- Digging and removal of artifacts is prohibited. Metal detecting is allowed only on the beach south of the pier. Help us protect nature by staying off the dunes and vegetation. *No lifeguards are on duty. Swimming is allowed in designated area only.*
- Helmets are required by state law for children under 16-years-old riding bicycles and everyone riding on the off-road bicycle trail. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Pets are permitted in this park's campground. They must be well behaved and kept on a six-foot, hand-held leash at all times. Pets are not permitted on the beaches, boardwalks, buildings, or the pier. Please check with the park before arriving to inquire about specific pet restrictions.
- The park offers many recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities. Should you need assistance to enable your full participation, please contact the park office.
- Open 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. An additional fee is required for the fort.

Northeast Florida

Fort Clinch State Park

An historic fort surrounded by alluring beaches!



...the Real Florida



FLORIDA State Parks
...the Real Florida



Revised 03/04 Printed on Recycled Paper

History & Culture

Named for General Duncan Lamont Clinch, a prominent figure of the Second Seminole War, construction of Fort Clinch began in 1847. It is one of a series of masonry forts constructed between 1816 and 1867 known as the *Third System Fortifications*. The fort was built at the mouth of the St. Mary's River to protect the natural deep-water port of Fernandina - the eastern link of Florida's only cross-state railroad. Never fully completed, it still served as a military post during the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War II.

Along with the purchase of six other parks, it became one of the state's first parks in 1935. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began restoring the buildings at the fort in 1936. In 1937 the CCC began building roads and campgrounds.

Today you can tour the fort and see how it may have looked in 1864 as it was being built by Army Engineers. Look out over the unspoiled vista of the Cumberland Sound and imagine how soldiers viewed this setting in bygone days.



Florida Parks' Timeline

BP (Before Present)
Early Human Habitation

Evidence of early Floridians is found in shell middens scattered throughout the park

1500s-1700s

1565: European contact with Timucuan tribes in N.E. Florida

1513-1539: Spanish Territory
1763-1783: British Territory
1783-1812: Spanish Territory

1696 Spanish outpost of Fort San Carlos is established

1800s

1777: Continental forces invade British Amelia Island - southernmost Revolutionary War battle

1817: Gregor MacGregor gains control of Fort San Carlos from Spain; raises The Green Cross of FL standard

1818: 1st Seminole War
1821-1845: American Territory
1835-1842: 2nd Seminole War
1845: Florida Statehood - 27th State

1847: Construction of fort begins

1862: Union forces re-occupy fort as Confederate forces evacuate Amelia Island

1900s

1920s Land Boom
1929: The Great Depression
1940s on: WWII & Population Explosion

1936: Florida State Parks form; Fort Clinch is one of original state parks

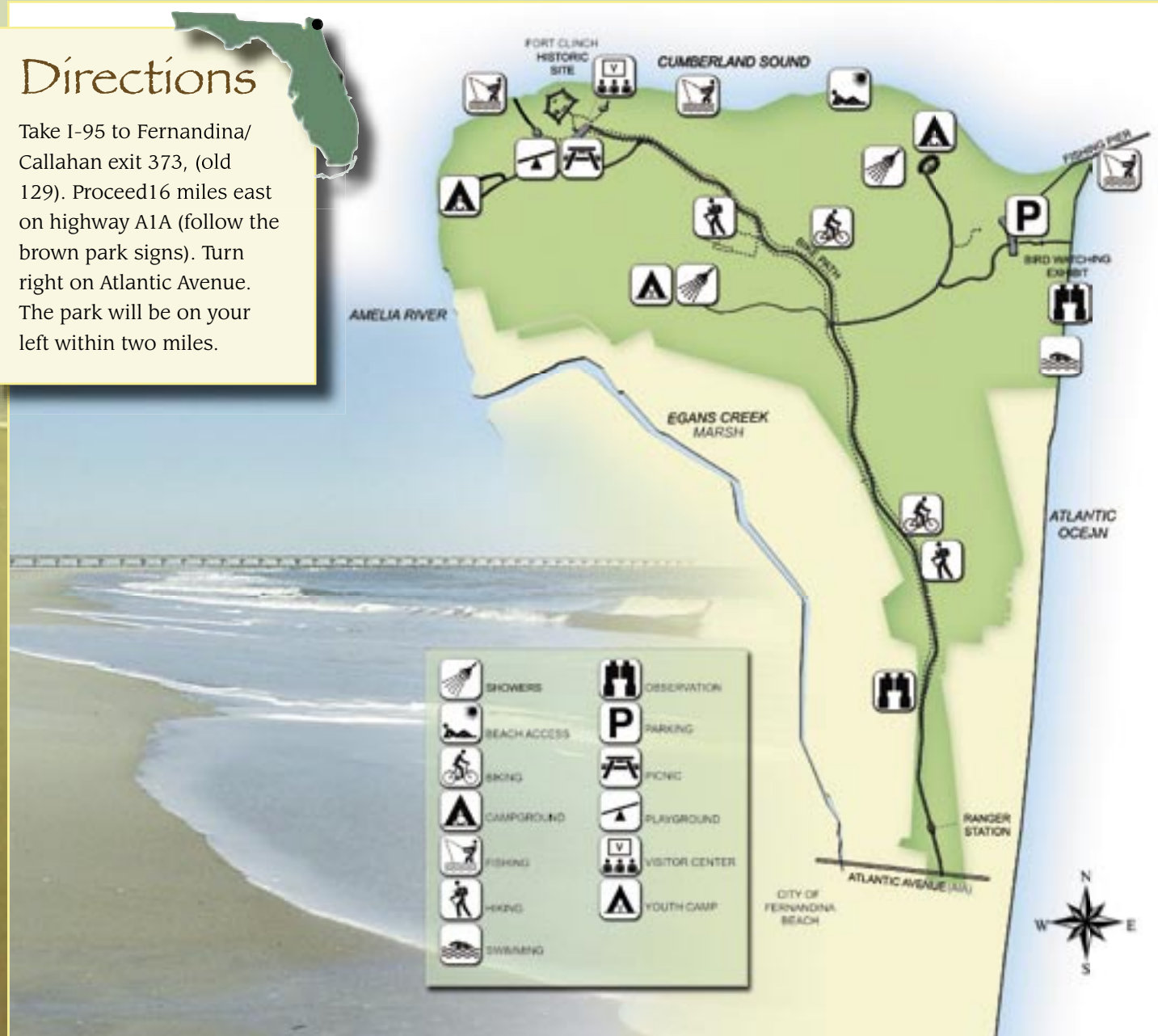
1976: Living history interpretation begins in fort

2000

1999-2000: Florida State Parks are voted #1 in the nation

Directions

Take I-95 to Fernandina/Callahan exit 373, (old 129). Proceed 16 miles east on highway A1A (follow the brown park signs). Turn right on Atlantic Avenue. The park will be on your left within two miles.



Real Fun in the Real Florida!

Fort Clinch has 62 campsites in two **campgrounds** (equipped with electricity and water) and four **primitive youth campsites**. **Swimming** is a popular sport here, as is **fishing** from several locations including the pier. The park offers a guided nature walk at Willow Pond every Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Try bicycling on the three mile tree-canopied park drive or on the challenging six mile off-road **bicycle/hiking trail** (helmets required). Enjoy **birding** at several locations including the park's *Gateway Station* to the *Great Florida Birding Trail*. **Shark tooth hunting** and **shelling** along the beaches are excellent.

Soldiers perform 1864 **reenactments** of everyday fort operations on *Fort Garrison Weekends*, the first weekend of each month. Historical markers at the Plaza Fort San Carlos in Old Town Fernandina detail the territorial disputes waged. Check with the Ranger Station for other frequently held events.



Fort serves the Coast Guard & Army/Navy

1936: Restoration of park begins

1938: Park open to the public

Confederate militia seize control of fort

1867: Construction ceases as fort becomes obsolete; left in caretaker status

Fort in use during Spanish American War