

TARKILN BAYOU PRESERVE STATE PARK
30*22.112/87*24.522

Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park offers the public:

- Three marked hiking trails: a 1/2-mile ADA accessible boardwalk to the bayou, a 2-mile loop trail through the uplands, and a 6.5-mile loop trail to Perdido Bay.
- Rare opportunity to observe many threatened and endangered species including the carnivorous white-top pitcher plant and butterworts, large-leaved jointweed and the alligator snapping turtle.
- Seasonal opportunities to observe numerous species of butterflies attracted to the vast variety of wildflowers.
- Year-round birding (word has it that there is a pair of Bald Eagles that call the preserve home)...with many seasonal variations.



The first 900 acres of this park was acquired by the state of Florida on April 13, 1998 under a Florida Forever project titled the Perdido Pitcher Plant Prairie Preserve. Within a month the land was leased to the Division of Recreation and Parks and renamed Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park. Since that time, numerous acquisitions and donations have grown the park to its current size of 4,296 acres.

Current management goals at Tarkiln Bayou Preserve State Park seem to vary as much as the habitats that exist here, however, most goals are attainable by simply continuing to introduce prescribed fire to the landscape. Prescription burning benefits native plants and animals and also minimizes the chance of devastating wildfires to the surrounding communities.

