

# Fishing

The lake on site is managed as **CATCH AND RELEASE AREA**, where all species of **BASS** must be immediately released. You may keep other species of fish, including Bluegill, Crappie and Catfish. Please observe appropriate State fishing regulations concerning size and quantity limits. Wading and swimming is prohibited. Use caution when fishing from the shore. All gas powered boats are prohibited.



# Birding

Indrio Savannahs is proud to be a part of The Great Florida Birding Trail System. The site attracts a wide range of species due to the many natural communities present within and around the site. This often provides visitors a unique birding experience with every visit. Species along the lake and depression marshes may include: waders, snipe, migrant ducks, bitterns, and sand hill cranes. Other frequently seen species include: scrub jays, bald eagle, ospreys, various woodpeckers, roseate spoonbills, wood storks, egrets, herons, local and migrant song birds, and many more.

# Hiking Trails

Paths leading from the parking area will take you through the five natural communities and three miles of nature trail. Many trails offer no shade or shelter, so be prepared for sun, excessive heat, or sudden thunderstorms. Make sure you have plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Trails may have uneven surfaces, so please be cautious and aware of your surroundings to ensure a safe hike. You may encounter an American alligator, feral hog, or a poisonous snake. Please observe all wildlife at a safe distance.

**Bicyclists please yield to hikers.**

# Ecosystems



## An ecosystem maintained by fire.

This site contains scrubby flatwoods ecosystems, a transitional habitat between pine flatwoods and true scrub. The scrubby flatwoods on the site consist of a remnant slash pine overstory and an understory dominated by saw palmetto; in scrubby flatwoods the understory includes small 'scrub' oaks. The vegetation is adapted to well-drained, sandy, nutrient poor soils, and is dependent on periodic fire. Fire allows for accumulated dead vegetation to be burned up and the nutrients returned to the soil for living plants to use. It also opens up the forest floor to allow groundcover to grow and to create the open sandy patches that wildlife on this site need. Many plants are dependent on fire to release their seeds. The dead trees, or **snags** that stand before you are remnants of a wildfire that occurred here in 2004. This fire transitioned the community from a more pine flatwoods community back to a scrubby flatwoods community, as the slash pine overstory was burned and removed. The fire was naturally caused by lightning, but since is being replaced by prescribed burning in which land managers deliberately burn the forest to achieve a more natural and much safer burning pattern.

## Indrio Savannahs Natural Communities

- Scrub
- Scrubby flatwoods
- Mesic flatwoods
- Depression marsh
- Basin marsh and lake

# Flora



## Wildflowers, Flowering Natives, and Butterfly Plants

Indrio Savannahs is home to a vast number of native flowering plants that may offer visitors an assortment of wildlife viewing opportunities. Spring generally offers the best time to view these blooms, especially in and around the flatwoods and depression marshes. Flowers generally attract butterflies and hummingbirds, while the later fruits provide animals, such as the gopher tortoise, with important sources of food. Frequently viewed specimens include irises, prickly pear cactus, paw paw, inkberry, gallberry, milkweed, asters, tickseed, fetterbush, hatpins, dune sunflower, lilies, ground orchids, and many more.

## Other Common Species on this Site

### Common Natives:

- Slash Pine
- Saw Palmetto
- Live Oak
- Sand Live Oak
- Chapman's Oak
- Muscadine Grape
- Wax Myrtle
- Red Bay Tree
- Broomsedge
- Winged Sumac
- Dahoon Holly
- Coastal Plain Willow

### Exotics:

- Old World Climbing Fern\*
- Brazilian Pepper Tree\*
- Cesar's Weed

**\*These species are actively managed and targeted for removal, due to their invasive nature and their ability to displace native flora and fauna.**

# Unique Species

## Florida Scrub Jay - *Aphelocoma coerulescens* -

The Florida Scrub Jay is a threatened species that is **endemic** to peninsular Florida, meaning it is found in this state and nowhere else in the world. Within Florida, this species is only found in true scrub and scrubby flatwoods that occur along the backbone and coasts of the state. These habitats are not only unique but rare due to it's developable and agricultural values.

Scrub Jays are monogamous and have great family values. As "cooperative breeders", the young from previous years will help with the raising of their younger siblings. They help feed their younger brothers or sisters or help with guard duties by acting as sentinels to protect against predators and potential territory intruders.

The Scrub Jay that inhabit this site are most frequently found in the central portion, but are often seen perching on oaks or on the lower branches of snags around this location. Listen for their call or for the "hiccup" call that only the female bird makes. Please don't disturb or feed these or any other fauna on the site.

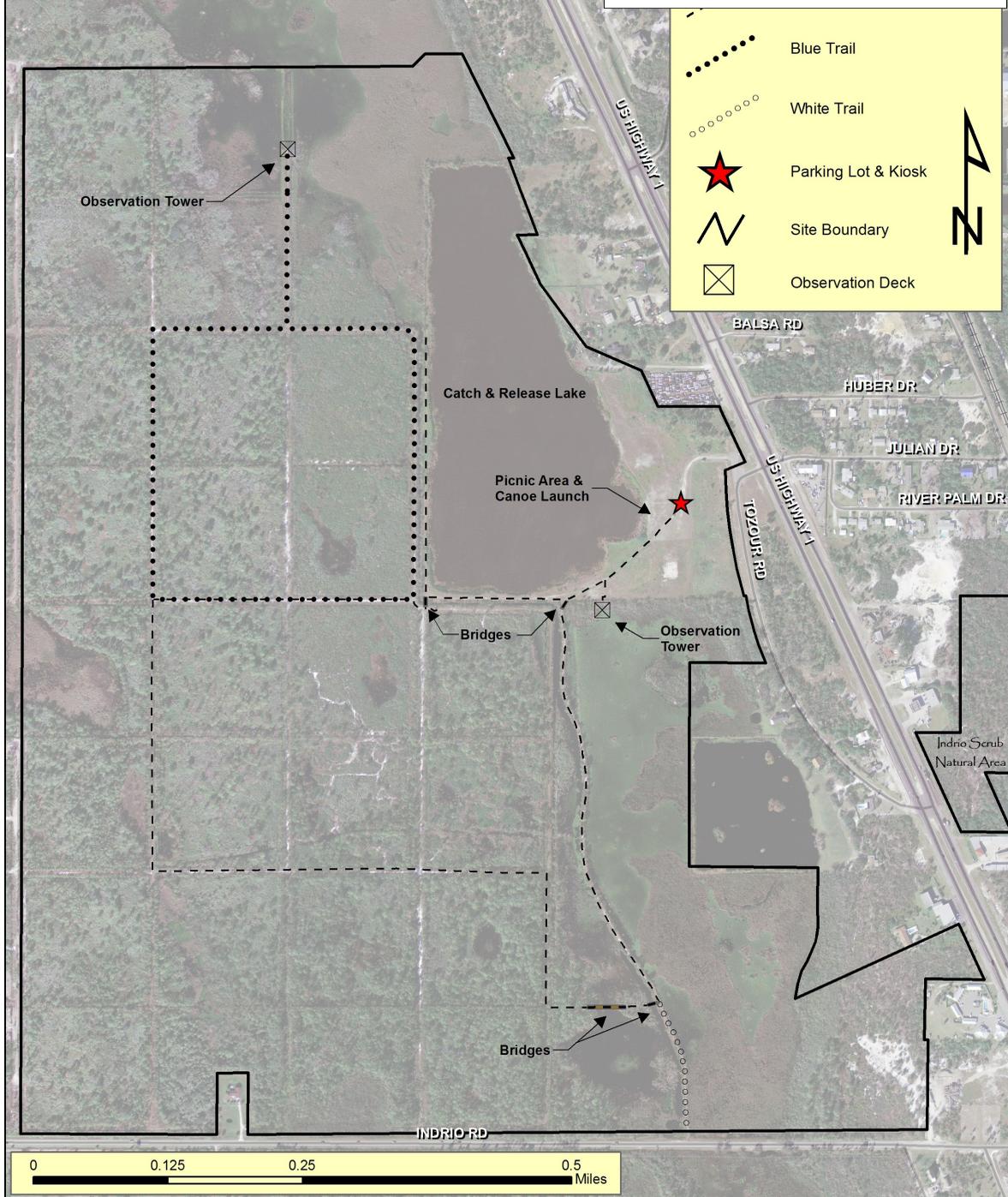
## Gopher Tortoise - *Gopherus polyphemus* -

The gopher tortoise is another threatened species that shares the same fate of the Florida Scrub Jay due to its selection of habitat. This tortoise is one of three species that resides in the US. The adults are a very dark brown color often reaching 15 inches in length. They have shovel like front legs used for digging their burrows, which can reach 40 feet in length and 10 feet in depth. The gopher tortoise is known as a keystone species, due to the number of other animal species that depend on their burrows for shelter. It is estimated that 360 animals species depend on the burrows for shelter and habitat. Mating occurs in April through June, adult females can lay 3 to 15 eggs, eggs in Florida have a 80-90 day gestation period.

## Other species of interest found onsite:

North American River Otter, American Alligator, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Eastern Diamondback Rattle Snake.

Funding for the acquisition of this site was provided by Florida Communities Trust's Preservation 2000 Program and St. Lucie County's Environmentally Significant Lands Program.



Indrio Savannahs contain 297 acres of scrub, scrubby flatwoods, mesic flatwoods, depression marsh, basin marsh and lake.

The 35-acre man-made lake within the natural area; is the result of past sand-mining activities. This water body is 40-feet deep, with sheer drop-offs at the lake's shore. Wading and swimming is prohibited.

Use caution when fishing from the shore.  
All gas powered boats are prohibited.

The parking area is 6/10 of a mile north of Indrio Rd, at the corner of Tozour Rd and US Highway 1, Fort Pierce.

### Guidelines and Safety Information:

- Be cautious of uneven trail surfaces
- Please remain on the trails.
- Carry adequate drinking water.
- In case of lightning, seek a low area away from trees, fence lines and tall objects.
- In case of emergency, call 911.
- While hiking the trail you may encounter animals indigenous to this area. Please observe from a safe distance.
- Leave all plant life intact.
- Please leave site cleaner than you found it. "Pack it in, pack it out."
- Use at own risk.
- Wading and swimming prohibited.
- Gas-powered boats prohibited.

To learn more about St. Lucie County's natural heritage, there are more than 20 self-guiding interpretive trails located within the Natural Areas/Preserves. Each trail describes the most common plants, as well as significant geographical and historical features of the site.

# Indrio Savannahs Preserve



## Nature Trail & Fishing Area



**St. Lucie County  
Environmental Resources  
Department**

2300 Virginia Avenue  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

772-462-2526



[http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental\\_lands.htm](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental_lands.htm)

Gates Open: Sunrise to Sunset (11/11)