

Blue Run of Dunnellon Park Update



Bill Vibbert - December 2015

Aerial View of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park



Property Acquired in 2008 with a Grant from the Florida Community Trust



Rainbow River Conservation has adopted the Blue Run of Dunnellon Park and will continue to join other partners to improve the facilities, natural resources and education programs.



RRC volunteers supporting Aquatic Preserve Manager by planting aquatic vegetation

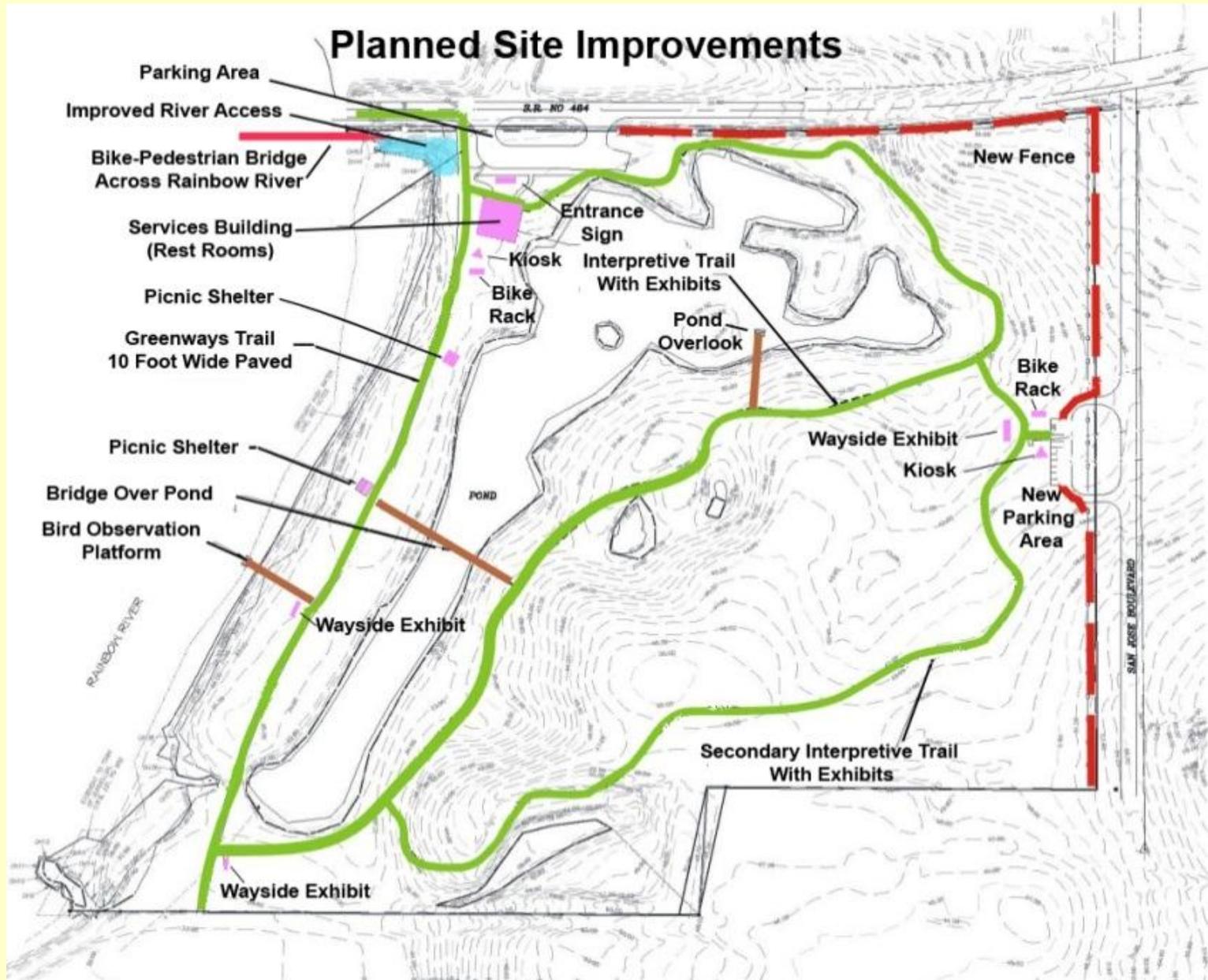
MANAGEMENT PLAN



BLUE RUN OF DUNNELLON PARK **Project No.: 07-022-FF7**

November 16, 2007

Master Site Plan



Improvements Include New Trails and Directional Signs



New Fence and Park Entrances

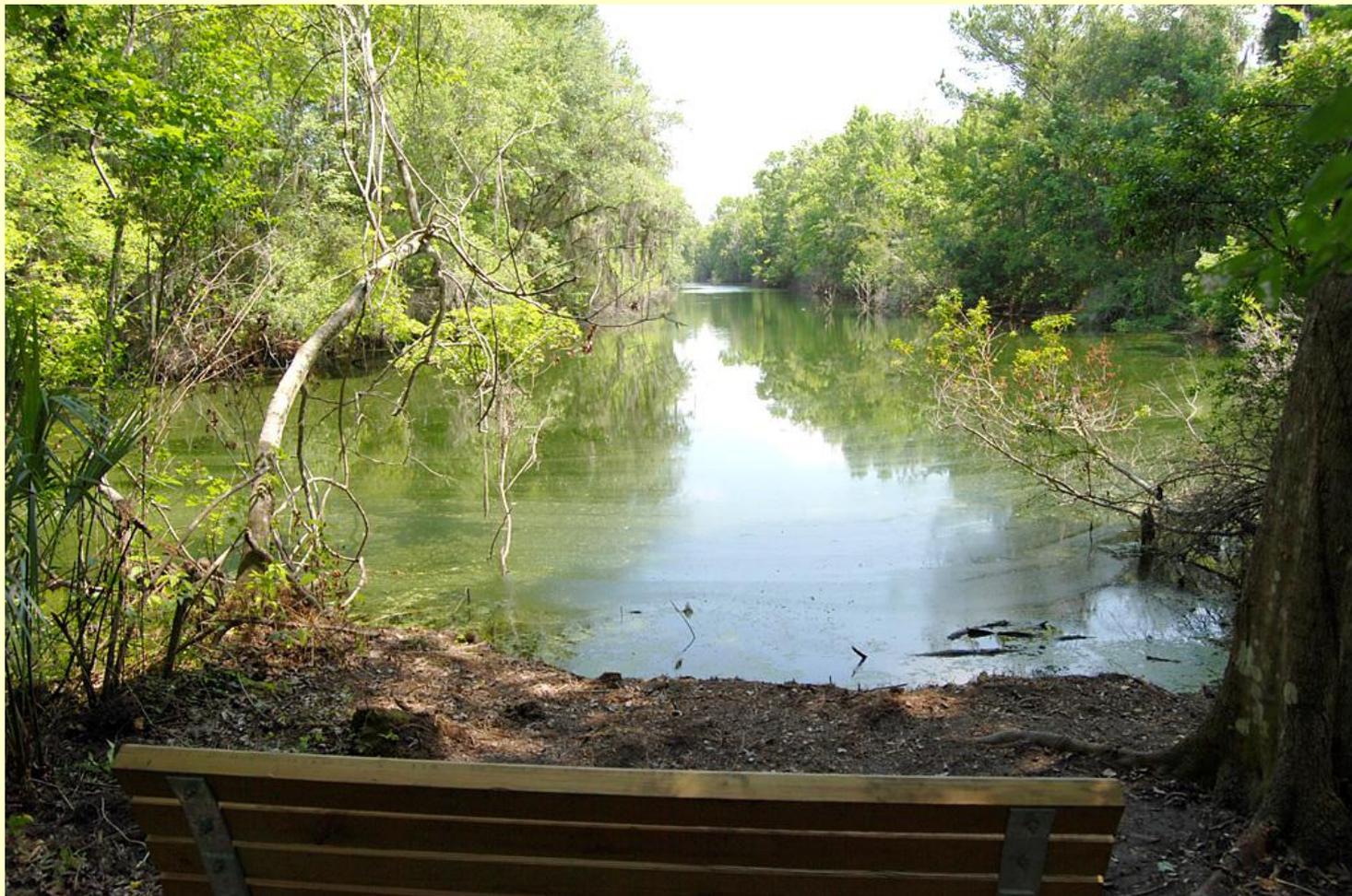


Two rail fence around park perimeter

New parking area off San Jose Blvd



New Benches



New Main Parking Area



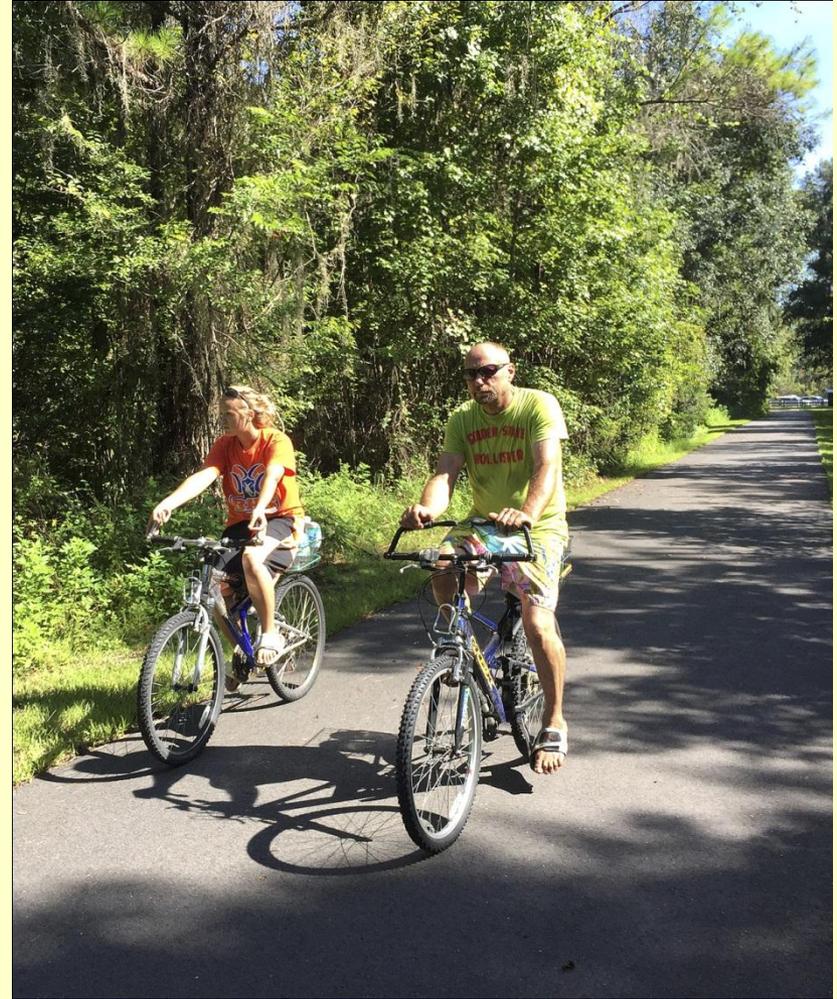
New Kayak Launch Ramp and Tuber Take Out



Construction of Bridge Across Withlacoochee River Key to Making Blue Run Park and Dunnellon a Major Trail Hub



New Multi-Use Trail Link to Dunnellon Trail and Withlacoochee River



Recent Park Improvements Include 24 Interpretive Signs Installed by Dunnellon High School ROTC



Three New Memorial Benches Along the Trails

Hilton family bench on the Sand Hill Trail



Jack and Marilyn Bench at the connection of Blue Run and Dunnellon Cross Florida Trails



Mike and Rook Dennis Bench on Dunnellon Trail half way to the Withlacoochee River bridge



New CR 484 Trail Head Kiosk with Map of Park



New San Jose Blvd Trail Head



New Signs Listing Park and Rainbow River Access Rules

The parks mission is to develop facilities for a passive recreation, resource based park, intended to enhance and protect the native natural systems while providing compatible public use and education.



New Cool Concrete Area for Staging Tubes and Kayaks



New Bike Rack



New Park Management



Trista Sylvester

Two Goals for Additional Park Improvements

Install a handicap accessible restroom including a drinking fountain for the comfort of the thousands of visitors that come to the park each year.



Install a pedestrian bridge over the Rainbow River so people coming from downtown Dunnellon do not have to walk on the narrow road shoulder and risk contact with car or truck traffic



Blue Run of Dunnellon Bridge Approach June 12 2015

Blue Run of Dunnellon Park has become a focal point of the city and a hub for a wide variety of recreation

- Visitors from Dunnellon, Marion County, other area of Florida, many other states, Canada and Europe have enjoyed visiting and using Blue Run of Dunnellon Park
- It is estimated that
 - 32,000 tubers
 - 16,000 kayakers
 - 21,000 bikers and hikersused Blue Run Park in the last year.



This is a place where all ages and life styles can connect



Tubing is very popular during the warm months



Trail is suitable for events such as a 5K Run





Kayak and bike trails converge at the Dunnellon Trail Bridge next to Blue Run Park



Blue Run Park protects the forest corridor, enhances wildlife habitat and encourages low-impact recreation



New friends are made while riding the trail



Blue Run Park has 1,300 feet of pristine wetlands along the Rainbow River



A Limpkin forages for Apple snails which are prevalent with the clear water.



Giant Cypress trees line the edge of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park



A partnership of Dunnellon, Marion County, SWFWMD, Office of Greenways and Trails and Rainbow River Conservation has been effective in making the Blue Run of Dunnellon Park a special place to connect and enjoy recreation while sustaining Florida's natural systems.