

In and Around Naples

Picayune Strand State Forest

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Picayune Strand State Forest

Website: www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Picayune-Strand-State-Forest

Access: The forest can be accessed via Everglades Boulevard from the north and Sabal Palm Road from the west.

\$2 day pass.

74,138 Acres.

History

1930s and 1940s: Logged.

1960s: Property purchased by developers and drained to build "the largest subdivision in the world".

1970s: Obvious that the extensive road and canal system was harming the natural communities and ecosystems.

1980s and 1990s: State of Florida purchased the land from private owners. Restoration work began. Ongoing.

Restoration work since 2002 on 55,000 acres has included:

Building 3 massive pumping stations. DONE

– **Merritt – 810 cubic feet per second**

– **Faka Union – 2650 cubic feet per second**

– **Miller – 1250 cubic feet per second**

Plugging of 42 miles of canals

70% OF CANALS NOW PLUGGED

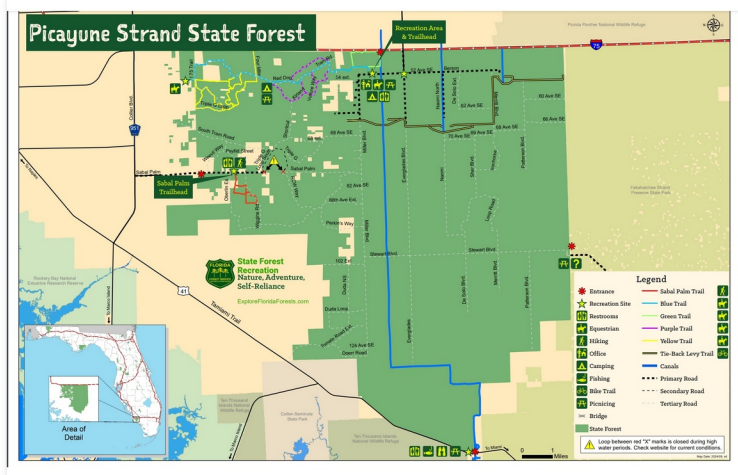
Removal of 285 miles of roads DONE

Removal of 62 miles of tram roads DONE

Work now under way on the remaining canals.

Facilities include:

- Hiking trails.
- Equestrian trail.
- Primitive campgrounds.
- Birding.
- Cycling.
- No off-highway vehicles.
- Day use sunrise to sunset.



Picayune Strand State Forest Wood Storks and Egrets



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**Picayune Strand State Forest
Wood Storks**



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**Picayune Strand State Forest
Bald Eagle Nesting Area**



Picayune Strand State Forest



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Canal**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Opossum
Carcass**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Catfish Carcass**



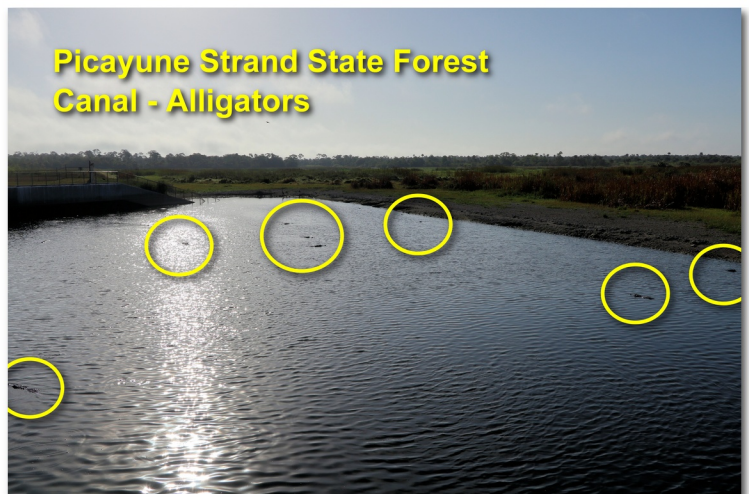
**Picayune Strand State Forest
Catfish Carcass**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Pumping Station**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Canal - Alligators**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Canal - Alligators**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Canal - Alligator**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Canal - Alligators**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Bald Eagle Nest (Left) and Eagle (Right)**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Bald Eagle Nest (Left) and Eagle (Right)**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Wood Storks**



Picayune Strand State Forest



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Wood Storks**



Picayune Strand State Forest



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Watershed Restoration**



**Picayune Strand State Forest
Watershed Restoration
Filling Old Canals**



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Watershed Restoration
Filling Old Canals**



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