

History & Nature

The First Seminole War (1817-1818) took place in Florida and southern Georgia when U.S. troops attacked and defeated a group of Seminoles. Spain formally ceded Florida to the United States in 1821. When Florida became a U.S. territory and more settlers began steadily moving into tribal territory, the Native Americans were forced to move south.

By the 1830s, significant conflict had arisen between Seminoles and white settlers who coveted Seminole lands. The Seminole practice of giving refuge to fugitive slaves added further cause for conflict.

With the signing of the treaty of Payne's Landing in 1832, some chiefs agreed to move to territory west of the Mississippi River. Widespread opposition to this treaty, led by a Seminole Chief named Osceola, resulted in the outbreak of the Second Seminole War.

In December 1835, 108 U.S. troops and officers were marching from Fort Brooke (Tampa) to reinforce Fort King (Ocala). One hundred miles from Fort Brooke, they were attacked by 180 Seminole warriors. All but three of the soldiers were killed.

In 1921, the state legislature appropriated funds for the preservation of the battle site as a memorial. Today visitors can tour the site where a replica of the original log breastwork can be seen. A visitor center and a section of the original Fort King Military Road provide insight into a battle between Florida's clashing cultures.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

7200 County Road 603
Bushnell, FL 33513
Phone: (352) 793-4781

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Open 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- Visitor Center is open 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily.
- An entrance fee is required.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Please help preserve our historic resources.
- For your safety, please do not feed or attempt to touch any animals.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only and must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and well behaved at all times.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the visitor center.
- For information about joining Dade Battlefield Society, call the visitor center at 352-793-4781 or visit www.dadebattlefield.com.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the visitor center.

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request at any
Florida state park.



FLORIDA
State Parks
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Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

A National Historic Landmark



*...the Real Florida*SM



National Gold Medal Winner

Florida State Parks - "America's First Three-Time Winner"

Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this 80-acre park features the historic battlefield, a visitor center, nature trail through 40 acres of pine flatwoods, playground, recreation hall and picnic area with covered pavilions.

At the **visitor center** enjoy a twelve-minute video, *This Land, These Men*, exhibits and artifacts about the battle history. Mannequins model clothing worn by the soldiers and Seminoles and the muskets they used. A variety of books related to Dade's battle and the Seminole culture, tee-shirts and postcards are available.

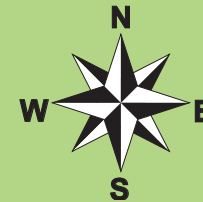
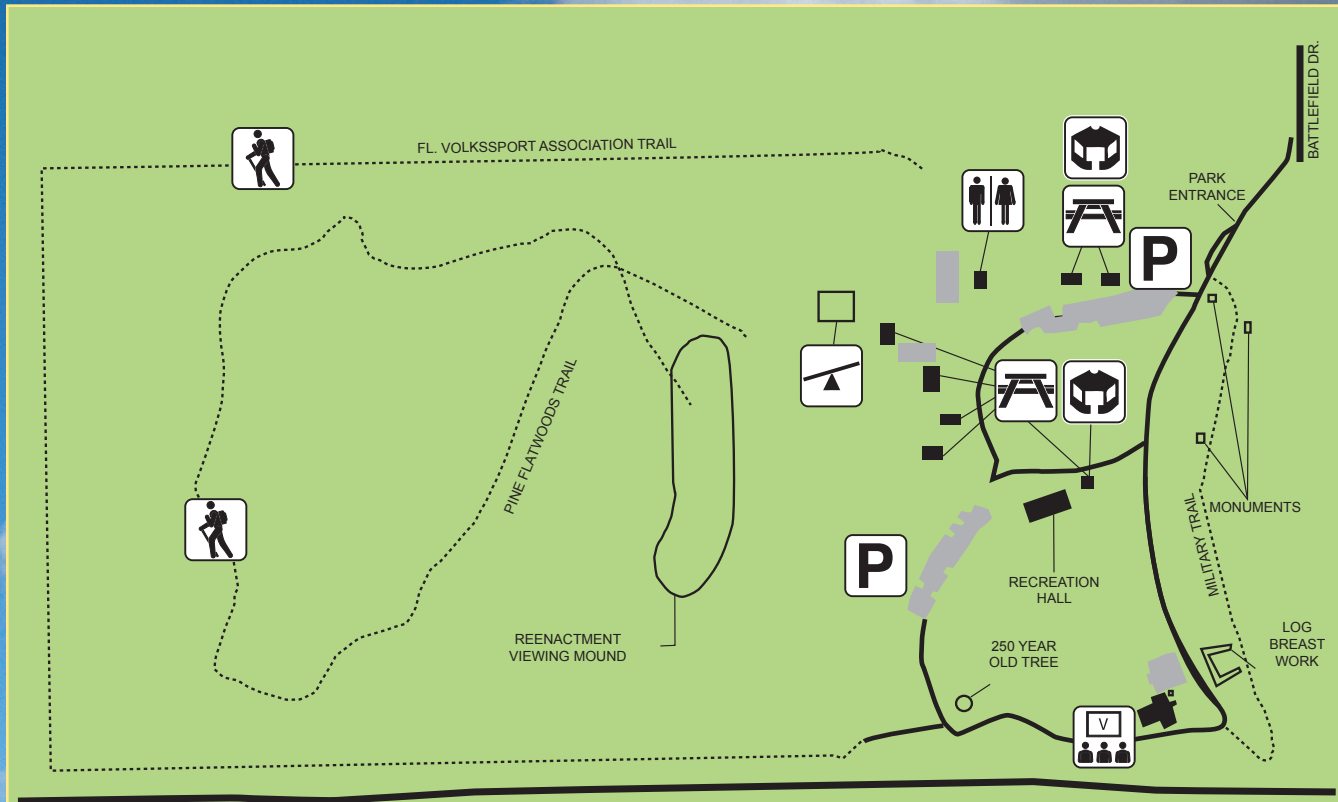
Review the events of the battle along the **trail** that follows a stretch of the historic Fort King Military Road. The trail features interpretive signs and monuments to Dade and his troops.

Special **events** at the park include an annual reenactment of the Dade Battle in late December or early January. World War II Day takes place the first Saturday of August. Ranger led tours and talks are available to groups by reservation at least two weeks prior to visiting.

A leisurely walk along the Pine Flatwoods Trail acquaints visitors with the native pine forest that is home to gopher tortoises, a variety of snakes, woodpeckers, hawks, herons, songbirds and other animals.

The park offers six **picnic pavilions** on a first-come, first-serve basis or for rental. Five of these pavilions have electricity. A **playground** and restrooms are near the pavilions.

The **recreation hall**, with a full kitchen, restrooms and seating for 98 people, can be rented for meetings, reunions or other special occasions.



Directions

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park is located off I-75, exit 314. Take State Road 48 east for one mile and turn left on CR 603. Go to the end of the road to the park entrance.

