

Ponce Preserve

4400 block of South Atlantic and South Peninsula Drive
Located 2.6 miles north of the Lighthouse on South Peninsula Drive



The Ponce Preserve is the town's largest park with approximately 41 acres stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Halifax River. Sitting at the heart of this park is the Green Mound State Archaeological Site which is home to a prehistoric Native American midden (commonly referred to as a shell mound).

Green Mound marks the location of an ancient Timucuan village that once sat on the bank of the Halifax River. Once numerous along the east coast, the vast majority of northeast Florida's shell mounds were destroyed by road crews in the early to mid-1900s who used the materials within the long abandoned middens as road fill. Laws are now in place to protect these important historic sites for future generations.

The terrain surrounding the Green Mound State Archaeological Site is varied, ranging from ocean dunes, terraced palmetto patches, and maritime hammocks to wetlands adjacent the Halifax River. You'll find many of our native plants in the Preserve including Florida lantana, southern red cedar, cabbage palms, Simpson's stoppers and oak trees. At the base of the Green Mound is a live oak estimated to be more than 350 years old. The Preserve has been added to the East Section of the Great Florida Birding Trail and is an excellent site for bird watching.



The parking lot and restrooms on the east side of Peninsula Drive give direct access to the nature trails through the park. The boardwalk begins directly across the street and offers two places to launch canoes and kayaks while meandering one-third of a mile across the marsh out to the Halifax River. Three covered gazebos offer visitors a place to relax and enjoy unspoiled views.

In addition to the nature trails the Preserve provides visitors with picnic facilities, play areas for the children, a wildlife viewing platform, and a boardwalk around the Green Mound and a walkway from Atlantic Avenue to the beach.

Funding for these projects was provided by the Ponce de Leon Inlet & Port District of Volusia County and the Florida Inland Navigation District. The Garden Club of Ponce Inlet provided the benches throughout the park and landscaping at the entrance island. The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program and Volusia ECHO grants funded construction of the recreational facilities.