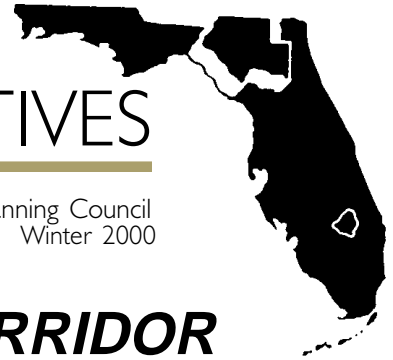


# REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

A Quarterly Publication of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
Winter 2000



## REMNANTS OF THE CIVIL WAR PRESENT IN THE ORIGINAL FLORIDA

The Battle of Olustee, which occurred near Lake City, took place on February 20, 1864, when Federal forces fought against the Confederate Cavalry in an attempt to prevent agricultural products and food from being shipped to the confederate army, to stop the Confederates from obtaining recruits, and to force the allegiance of Florida to the Union. The **Olustee Battlefield State Historic Site** commemorates this battle by marking a trail and posting signs along the battle lines. This year's re-enactment, which has become the second largest in the nation, will take place February 18 - 20, and will include authentic campsites, cavalry, families dressed in period clothes, and a sutler's village. Visitors are welcome to watch. For more information, call 904/758-0400.

The **Columbia County Historical Museum** in Lake City is located in an 1870s home. The museum includes a display on Civil War weapons and memorabilia, antique furniture, old tools, and historical documents. The museum is located at 105 South Hernando Street and is open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 2-5 p.m. For more information, call 904/755-9096.

Confederate earth works, an earthen embankment used as a military fortification, were constructed to protect the railroad bridge across the Suwannee

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## I-75 CORRIDOR COUNCIL UPDATE

The **I-75 Corridor Beautification and Tourism Promotion Council**, established by the **North Central Florida and Withlacoochee Regional Planning Councils** in concert with **Districts II and V, Florida DOT**, has just completed its second year of operations.

A total of fourteen local governments which are bisected by I-75 between the Georgia border and its intersection with the Florida Turnpike are represented on the **Council** and its **Technical Advisory Committee**.

Early on the **Council** established the entranceway into Florida, and the interchanges of I-75/I-10, and the I-75/Florida Turnpike as priority areas to address. The Council also imme-

*(Continued on Page 2)*



*Olustee Battlefield*

**(I-75 Corridor Council Update  
Continued from Page 1)**

diately began to pursue state funding of a design plan for the entire corridor so that beautification efforts follow an agreed-upon theme.

Funding for the design plan has just been granted by the **FDOT**. The **Council** is currently working with **DOT** staff to develop a scope of work with a goal of starting the project by July 1. It is expected to take at least a year, possibly longer, to complete the plan.

On completion of the plan, the **FDOT** has allocated funds to begin the beautification and tourism promotion efforts beginning in July, 2002. However, this scheduled does not mean that nothing is being done in the meantime.

As you may have noticed, **District II DOT** has begun to clean up interchanges in Hamilton County and, most notably, the interchange of I-75/I-10 in Columbia County (see accompanying photo). **DOT** crews have also planted wildflowers at this interchange donated by the **Florida Federation of Garden Clubs**.

The success of this program so far has been due to the participation of not only local elected officials and the District offices of **FDOT**, but also due to the technical help provided by other agencies and groups such as the **University of Florida Department of Landscape Architecture**, the **Florida Federation of Garden Clubs**, the **Florida Outdoor Advertising Association**, **TIRN Broadcasting, Inc.**, **Visit Florida**, the **Florida Native Plant Society**, **The Original Florida Tourism Task Force**, and many others.

**(Remnants of the Civil War  
Continued from Page 1)**

River and can be found at the **Suwannee River State Park**. Union troops were dispatched from Jacksonville to capture the bridge but were turned back near Olustee. Location: 13 miles west of Live Oak on Highway 90.

The **Smith Mansion**, also known as the Wardlaw-Smith-Goza Conference Center, was built in the 1860s and served as a hospital during the Civil War. Wounded soldiers were brought into Madison by train from the Battle of Olustee. Also, on May 15, 1865, General John C. Breckenridge, the Confederate Secretary of War and former Vice President of the United States during President Buchanan's administration, spent the night at the mansion during his escape to Key West. Location: 103 North Washington St. For more information, call 850/973-2288 ext. 132.

The 31 **Confederate Soldiers Graves** in Madison belong to men killed at the Battle of

Olustee. The graves are marked only *C.S.A.*, as the individuals were not identified. Location: travel west on Highway 90, turn north on Meeting Street until it runs into the Oak Ridge Cemetery.

**WEB PAGES OF INTEREST**

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council - <http://ncfrpc.org>

The Original Florida - <http://originalflorida.org>

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership - <http://originalfloridabusines.org>

North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee - <http://www.afn.org/~lepc/>

North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. - <http://adco.org>



*Aerial View of I-75 at I-10 in Columbia County*

## CHEMICAL SPILL EXERCISE AT AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK

The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held a full-scale hazardous materials emergency response exercise on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Gainesville Airport Industrial Park. The simulation involved a semi-trailer with a leaking drum of sulfuric acid giving off a white cloud of acid mist. A school bus crashed nearby, providing a source of victims.

First responders sealed off the area. The **Gainesville Fire Rescue Hazmat Team** put on

chemical protective suits to identify the chemical and rescue the victims. **Alachua County EMS** prepared the victims for transport to four hospitals. The county emergency operations center helped manage resources.

Overall, the exercise went smoothly. Improvements were identified for inter-agency communications and for handling a large number of contaminated patients. Lessons learned will be used by the **Regional Hazmat Team**, which is expected to be up and running in 2000.

As a follow-up, the **LEPC** is sponsoring a hospital decontamination class being offered by the **National Terrorism Preparedness Institute**, housed at St. Pete Community College.

The LEPC also offers hazardous materials training for fire departments, EMS, and law enforcement. There is no charge to hold a class in your county.

## BICYCLE MAPS OF THE ORIGINAL FLORIDA AVAILABLE NOW



In support of its efforts to promote tourism in the region, utilizing a grant provided by the **Florida Department of Transportation**, the **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council** developed and printed on-road bicycle maps for *The Original Florida* region.

There are four maps in all, divided into three counties each: Alachua/Bradford/Union, Dixie/Gilchrist/Levy, Lafayette/Madison/Taylor, and Columbia/Hamilton/Suwannee.

To obtain FREE copies of any or all of these maps, contact the **Council** by phone: 352/955-2200 or by Email: [ncfrpc@ncfrpc.org](mailto:ncfrpc@ncfrpc.org). Businesses may wish to obtain a supply of these maps. **Hurry, get your copies while they last!**



*Hazmat Team heads for the hot zone.*

**The Original Florida Tourism Task Force** announced recently that it has received a matching grant from **VISIT FLORIDA** to design and print a **Visitor Tour Guide Book** for its 11 counties plus 5 other counties included in the state's tourism district covering the north central Florida area. Counties to be included in the book are **Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union and Wakulla**. The Visitor Tour Guide Book will be the first of its kind for the area.

The **Guide Book** will include information on historical, cultural and natural attractions, camping, golfing, fishing, diving, hiking, canoeing, biking and antiquing opportunities, a dining directory, an accommodations guide, and a list of festivals and events. The **Task Force** is in the process of gathering information from area tourism businesses at this time. **If your business has not yet sent information to be included in the book, please contact Melissa Maxwell at 352/955-2200, ext. 127.** The **Guide Book** is expected to be completed by June, 2000.

**NCFRPC SERVICES  
AVAILABLE TO LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS AND  
BUSINESSES**

- local comprehensive plans
- land development regulations
- transportation plans
- transportation disadvantaged plans
- disaster mitigation and recovery plans
- emergency response plans
- hazardous waste verification
- CDBG grant applications
- CDBG grant administration
- FRDAP grant applications
- tourism development
- general economic development
- small business loans

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