TIPPECANOE

Environmental Park

Tippecanoe Environmental Park is a 380 acre preserve with a diverse assemble of habitats including oak scrub, scrubby flatwoods, coastal hammocks, floodplain forests, salt marshes, and mangrove swamps. Tippecanoe contains one of the largest contiguous tracts of xeric oak scrub in Charlotte County. Xeric oak scrub is very dry and has a slightly higher elevation than pine flatwoods and is found near the coast and original creek waterways. Scrub provides the ideal habitat for the Florida scrub-jay, as well as other protected species such as the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake and gopher frog.

Both the scrub and pine flatwoods habitats are fire dependent communities. To keep these habits healthy and functional prescribed fire is the primary management too.

The salt marshes and mangrove swamps border Sam Knight Creek and its tributaries, providing excellent habitat for wading birds, reptiles, amphibians, and foraging for osprey and bald eagles. The creeks throughout Tippecanoe are mostly undisturbed, through the proper management of the uplands the water quality of the creeks will be protected and thus protecting the waters of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve.

Tippecanoe also boasts a rich history with multiple shell middens on the property, some dating as far back as 2,500 years.

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