

Riverhills Park Addition/Scout Park/West River Preserve

General Description

Size: 59 acres. This small site was purchased by Hillsborough County (ELAPP) in two sections. The first parcel was acquired in 1995 and is known as Scout Park, while the second parcel was acquired in 2000 and is known as West River Preserve. Taken together they comprise the Riverhills Park Addition ELAPP Project. During the acquisition process, the County established an agreement with the City of Temple Terrace to take ownership and management responsibility for the property, and was successful in obtaining partial funding for the purchase from the Florida Communities Trust Program.

Location and Access

As its name implies, the site is adjacent to Riverhills Park in Temple Terrace. From 56th Street, just north of the Hillsborough River bridge, turn east on Riverhills Drive. Turn right at the 4-way stop, and either enter the park at the boat launch area, or continue past Riverhills Elementary and turn right on West River Drive, and park on the right at Scout Park. Trails lead from the Scout Park parking area in an upstream direction.

Environmental Significance

This land was purchased to protect a rare, undeveloped stretch of shoreline on the Hillsborough River, most of which has been developed with single family home sites long ago. Although relatively small in acreage, the site includes over 1 mile of naturally vegetated shoreline in an urbanized area. The Scout Park section also includes a core area of heavily wooded uplands that has been used for many years as an urban campsite by scout groups. Public ownership not only guarantees that the site will continue to be open to area residents for their use and enjoyment, but enables the site to be managed to maintain and enhance its natural resources. City of Temple Terrace staff are working with volunteers and other agencies to remove invasive non-native vegetation and to replant the site with native species.

Recreational Opportunities

This site, along with the adjacent park, offers hiking, birdwatching, general nature study, picnicking, boating, and fishing. A well defined trail system begins in the Scout Park section, and leads to a new trail on the West River Preserve that is still being broken in. Covering the total distance of 2 miles involves backtracking some sections, but the scenic river shoreline makes it an enjoyable experience.

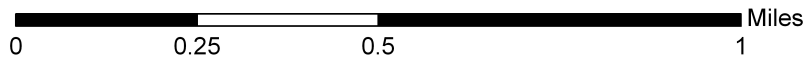
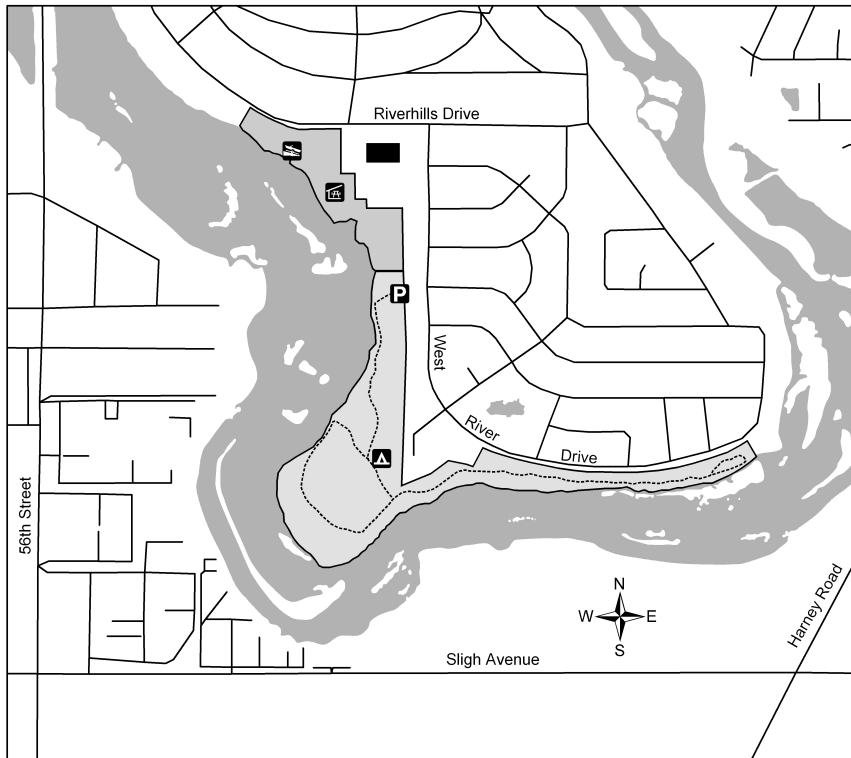
Volunteer Opportunities








Removing and controlling the re-introduction of exotic plants is the biggest management challenge for this site, and the City relies heavily on volunteers to help with the effort. General site cleanup and trail maintenance events are also held on a regular basis. Please add your name to the City's volunteer contact list to make sure you hear about these work days.

Contact Information

Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation Department, 6610 Whiteway Drive, Temple Terrace, FL 33617.

Attn: Mr. Dana Carver (813) 989-7180 or (813) 989-7059.
dcarver@templeterrace.com



| Riverhills Park Addition/Scout Park/West River Preserve | | | |
|---|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| ----- | Hiking Trail |  | Riverhills Elementary |
|  | Boat Ramp |  | Riverhills Park |
|  | Parking |  | Scout Park/West River Preserve |
|  | Scout Campsite | | |
|  | Picnic Shelter | | |