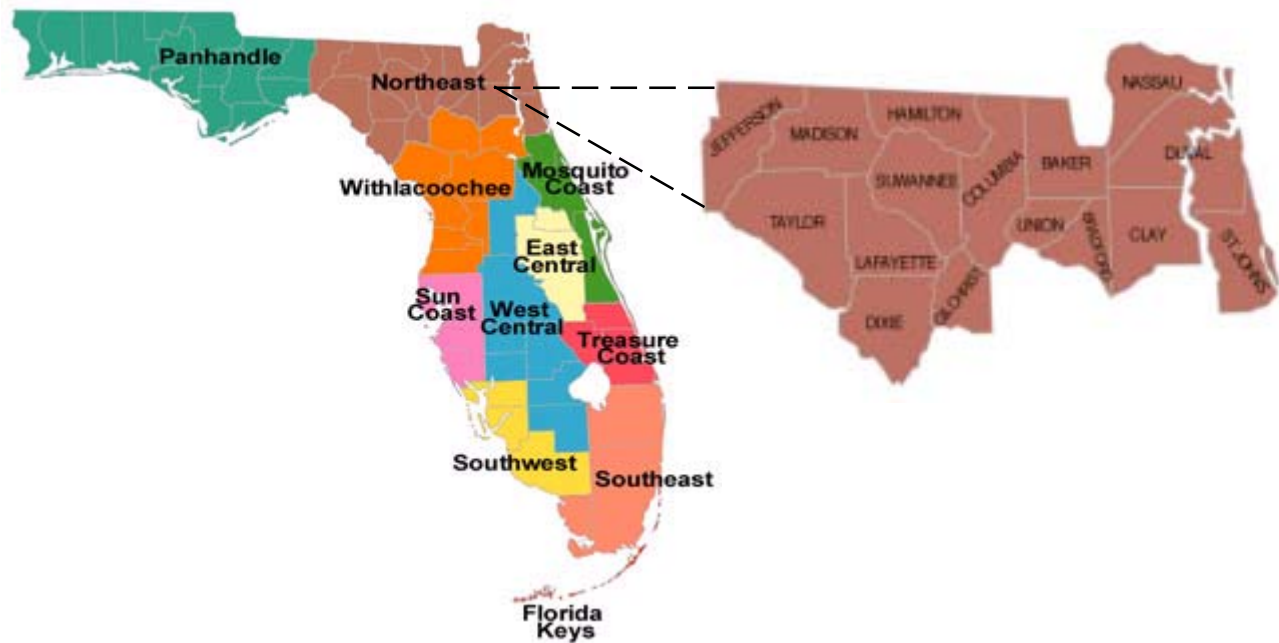


Northeast Regional Working Group



The Northeast Regional Working Group liaison is Jay Anderson, Suwannee River Water Management District, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060, phone: 386-362-1001, fax: 386-362-1056, e-mail: anderson_j@srwmd.state.fl.us. The two projects completed in this working group both targeted the continuing spread of Japanese climbing fern.

Twin Rivers Invasive Exotic Plant Control

County: Hamilton, Madison, Suwannee

PCL: Twin Rivers State Forest

PCL Size: 14,775 acres

Project Manager: Division of Forestry (DACS)

Brad Ellis, Forester
7620 133rd Road, Live Oak, Florida 32060
Phone: 386-208-1462, Fax: 386-208-1465
E-mail: ellisjb@doacs.state.fl.us

Project ID: NE-015

Project Size: 30.2 acres

Fiscal Year 02/03

Project Cost: \$6,750.00

The Twin Rivers State Forest is located along the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers in western Hamilton County, eastern Madison County, and northwest Suwannee County. The Forest is comprised of fourteen noncontiguous tracts within the Withlacoochee River and Middle Suwannee River Basins. The Forest features several natural communities including Bottomland Forest, Floodplain Forest, Hydric Hammock, Shrub Wetland, Floodplain Swamp, Wetlands, Upland Mixed Forest, Mixed Hardwood and Pine, and Sandhill.

Japanese climbing fern is found most extensively along the banks of the Withlacoochee River, intermittently all the way from the Georgia/Florida state line to the rivers confluence with the Suwannee River. The portion of the Forest adjoining the Suwannee River was not surveyed, but infestations were identified in the uplands. Sites ranged in size from less than 0.001 acre to greater than 0.1 acre in size. Accessibility of the sites ranged from moderately accessible and treatable (by boat), to difficult to treat (due primarily to sharply sloping riverbanks). Other sites had been treated during the prior fiscal year.

Target Plants	Common Name	FLEPPC Rank	Treatment	Herbicide
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese climbing fern	Category I	foliar	glyphosate+Escort

Suwannee Joint Lygodium Invasive Exotic Plant Control

County: various

PCL: *see below*

PCL Size: various

Project Manager: Florida Park Service
 Steve Yoczik, Park Manager
 20185 County Road 132, Live Oak, Florida 32060
 Phone: 904-362-2746, Fax: 904-362-1614
 E-mail: stephen.yoczik@dep.state.fl.us

Project ID: NE-016

Project Size: 25 acres

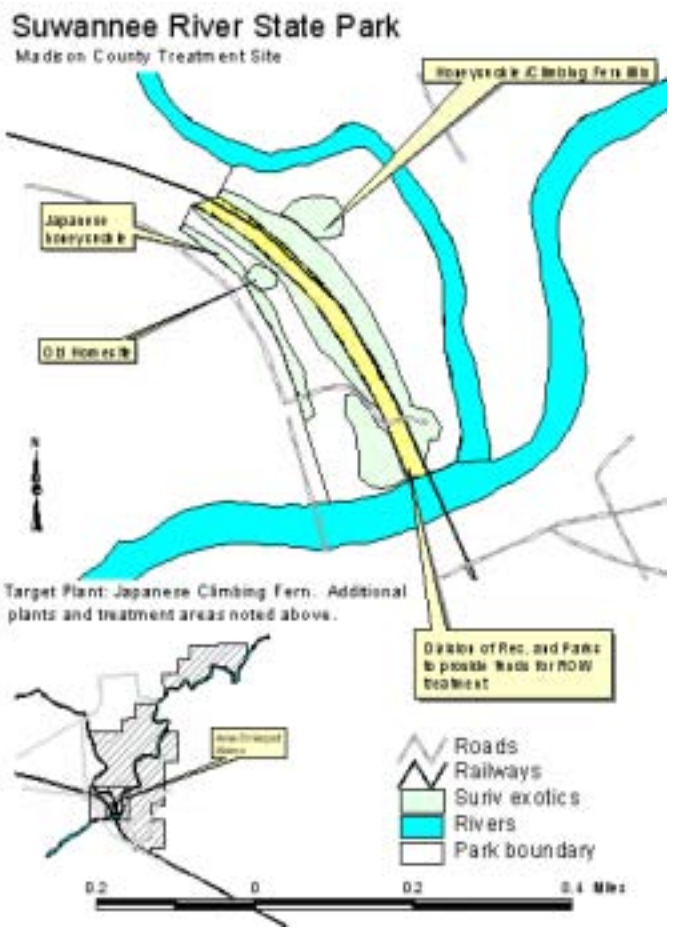
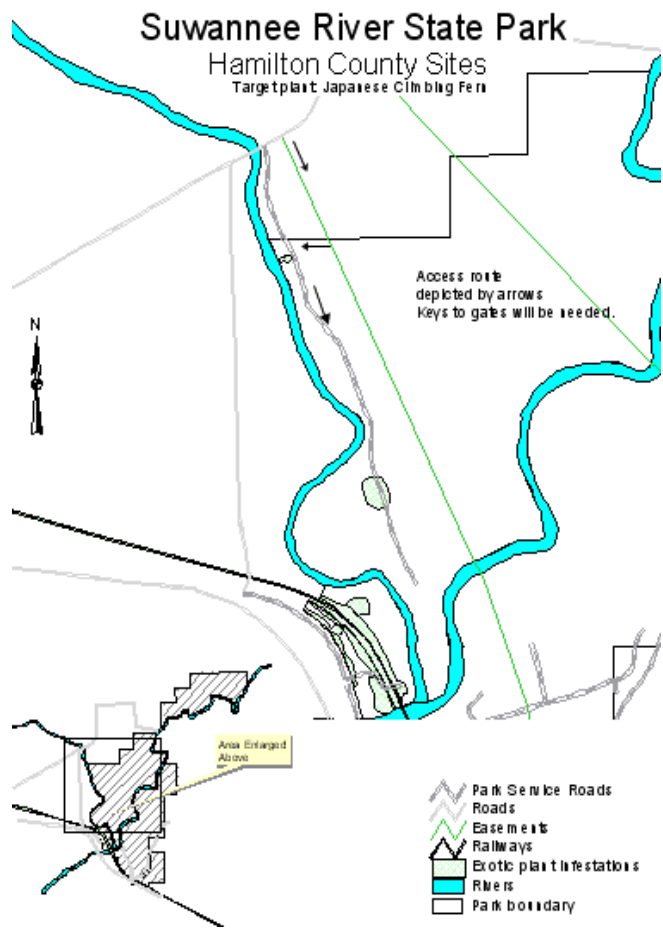
Fiscal Year 02/03

Project Cost: \$17,383.95

Japanese climbing fern occurs throughout the Withlacoochee and Suwannee River basins. The fern has invaded state sovereignty lands (below ordinary high water), State Park and State Forest lands, Suwannee River Water Management District lands, and privately owned lands. This project targeted primarily Japanese climbing fern on uplands and along the adjacent river banks at Suwannee River State Park and on Twin Rivers State Forest on the Withlacoochee, and Upper Suwannee Rivers. Chinese wisteria and Chinaberry were also controlled on Suwannee River State Park properties. There are about 17 miles of river frontage along the State Forest and about 8 miles of river frontage along the State Park. The Twin Rivers State Forest project area comprised 4,445 acres in Hamilton and Madison Counties. Japanese climbing fern occurred on the river bluffs and at several locations inland. The predominant natural communities are Sandhill and Upland Mixed Forest. In addition, there are Bottomland Forest, Floodplain Forest, Sinkhole, and Bluff communities present that provide ideal conditions for the establishment and perpetuation of Japanese climbing fern.

The Suwannee River State Park project area included land surrounding the confluence of the Suwannee and Withlacoochee Rivers. Park property extends up the Suwannee River above the confluence with the Withlacoochee River and also extends up the Withlacoochee River, primarily along the east bank. For much of that length, the Twin Rivers State Forest is across the river. In all, the park has 1,856 acres comprised of numerous natural communities including Sandhill, Upland Pine, Floodplain Forest, Bottomland Forest, Sinkholes, and Blackwater River and Streams. Much of the park has been in the state park system since the 1930s. Climbing fern occurred along river banks throughout the park. Material from populations upstream frequently becomes established in the disturbance-prone bluff environment of the river. The largest and densest populations are on the outside curves of the river, where it is often the predominate ground cover. These bluff populations also provide parent material for establishment of additional downstream populations, further spreading this aggressive invasive species.

Target Plants	Common Name	FLEPPC Rank	Treatment	Herbicide
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese climbing fern	Category I	foliar	Rodeo
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	Category I	basal	Garlon 4
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese wisteria	Category II	basal	Garlon 4





The banks of the Suwannee River (top) are overrun with Japanese climbing fern (left).

The fertile fronds, ripe with spores (closeup above), are easily identified.