

History and Nature

Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park commemorates the site of Florida's largest Civil War battle.

In February 1864, the commander of the Department of the South, Major General Quincy A. Gillmore, launched an expedition into Florida to secure Union enclaves, disrupt Rebel supply routes and recruit black soldiers. Brigadier General Truman Seymour and his 5,000 troops moved deep into the state. He met little resistance until February 20 as he approached Brigadier General Joseph Finegan's 5,000 Confederates entrenched near Olustee. The battle raged for four hours, and as Finegan committed the last of his reserves, Seymour ordered a withdrawal, using a fresh brigade to cover the Union retreat.

Three regiments of U.S. Colored Troops took part in the battle, including the now famous 54th Massachusetts. The battle ended with 2,807 casualties and the retreat of Union troops to Jacksonville until the war's end just 14 months later.

In 1909, the Florida legislature acquired three acres to build a memorial to commemorate the event. In 1912, when many living Civil War veterans still attended reunions, the battlefield became the state's first historic site. In February of each year a reenactment of the battle occurs. A Civil War Expo takes place in late summer.

Scenes for Civil War movies, including the 1989 movie *Glory*, have been filmed during the reenactments.



Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park

5890 Battlefield Trail Road
Sanderson, FL 32087
(386) 758-0400

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- The Interpretive Center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- All facilities are available free of charge.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and well behaved at all times.
- Alcoholic beverage consumption, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the Museum
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

Printing of this brochure was funded by the Olustee Battlefield Citizen Support Organization (CSO). To learn more or to join, visit their award-winning website at BattleofOlustee.org

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Florida state park.

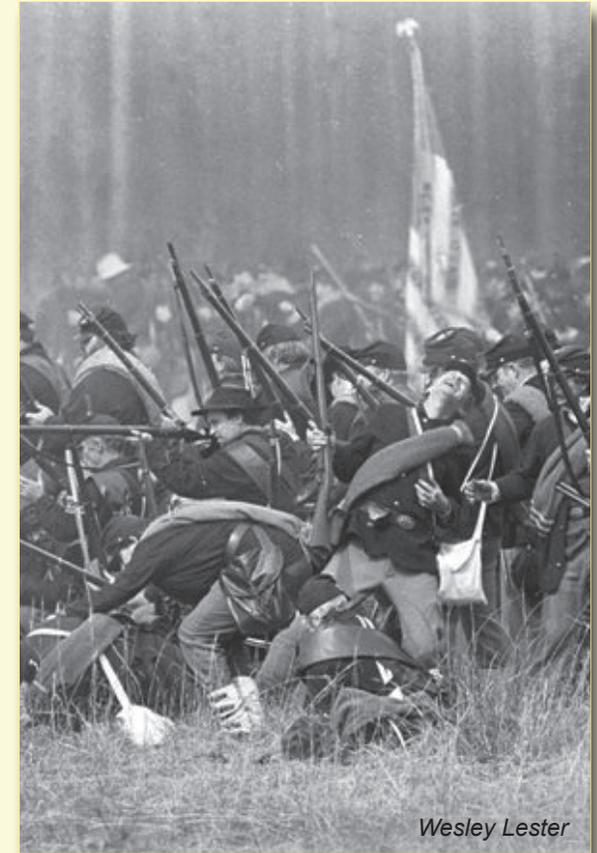


**FLORIDA
State Parks**
*...the Real Florida*SM
Created on 11/14



Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park

Commemorating Florida's largest Civil War Battle



Wesley Lester

*...the Real Florida*SM



National Gold Medal Winner

Florida State Parks - "America's First Three-Time Winner"

Welcome to ...the Real FloridaSM

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Open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., a Visitor Center contains exhibits with artifacts that tell the story of the campaign that led up to the Battle of Olustee. A short video documentary of the reenactment is included.

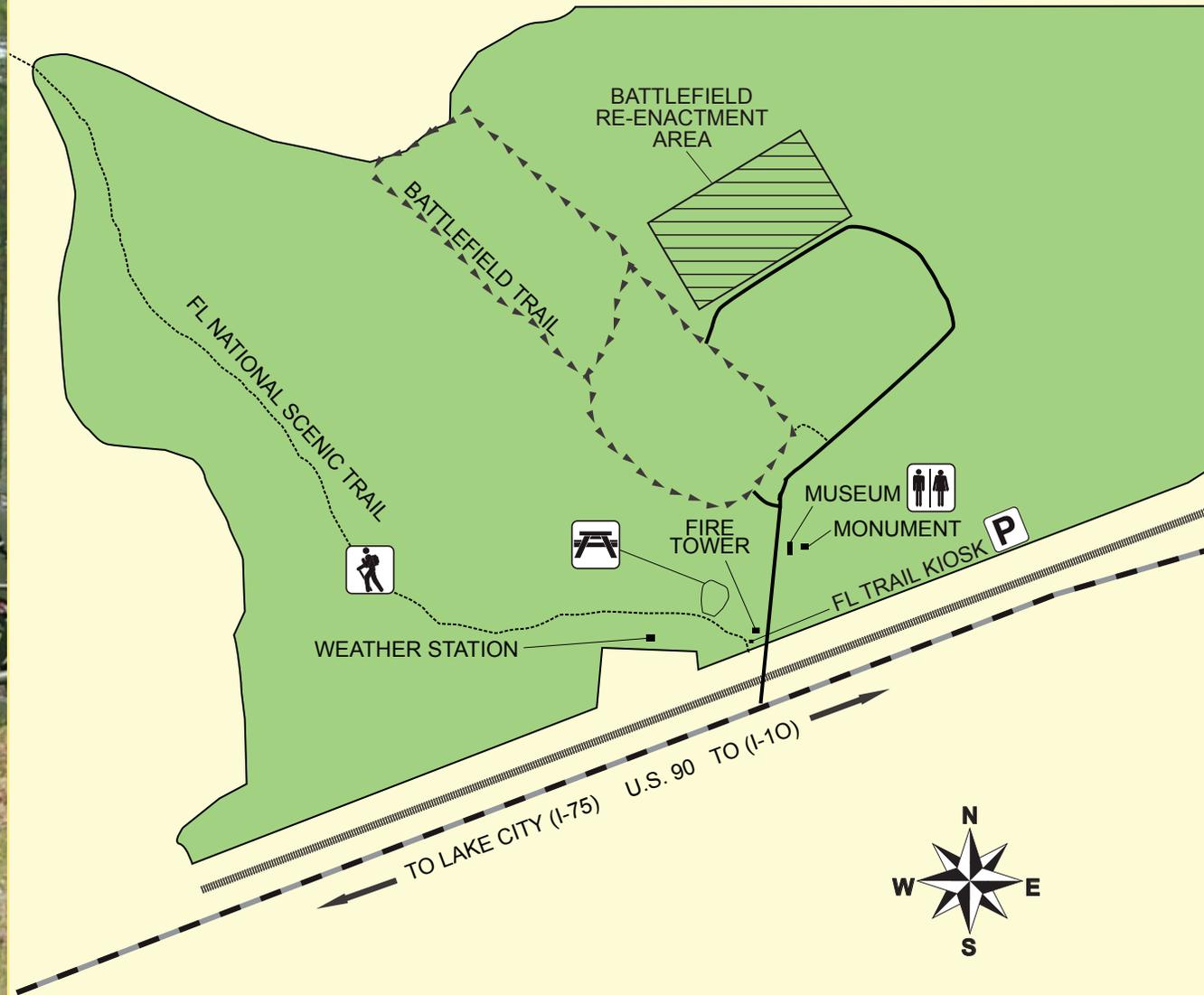
The Olustee Depot is a visitor center for the park and surrounding public lands that is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. It is located on Highway 90 in the town of Olustee.

Visitors can bring a picnic and use the picnic tables located across from a grove of oak trees adjacent to the U.S. Forest Service fire tower. Visitors enjoy walking the one-mile trail with interpretive signs that follow the battle lines. A portion of the Florida National Scenic Trail travels through the park. This park adjoins the Osceola National Forest.

The predominant natural community is the mesic flatwoods with mostly longleaf and slash pines. The mature longleaf pines provide habitat for several red-cockaded woodpecker colonies.



-  HIKING
-  PARKING
-  PICNICKING
-  RESTROOMS



Directions

Olustee Battlefield is located on U.S. 90, 15 miles east of Lake City and 50 miles west of Jacksonville. From I-10 exit at U.S. 90 west (Exit 324). The battlefield is located 5.5 miles from the exit. From I-75, exit at U.S. 90 east (Exit 427) and travel approximately 20 miles to the park.

