

HISTORY AND NATURE

The Lake Jackson Archaeological site is the largest known ceremonial complex of the Fort Walton period (1000-1450 A.D.) in North Florida. The number and size of the Lake Jackson mounds indicate that this site served as the regional chiefdom of the Mississippian culture, akin to a present-day county seat.

The entire complex was composed of seven earthen temple mounds that were part of the village and trading area. Pottery, stone tools, location, and shape of the existing mounds have been used to identify the age and culture of the site. There is evidence that the Lake Jackson Native Americans participated in the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex, a broad regional similarity of artifacts, iconography, ceremonies and mythology of the Fort Walton period.

The remains of important tribal members and high-status burials have been found at the site. Burial goods – such as salt, shells, stone celts, and pearls used for hair and clothing adornment - suggest trade with other Mississippian sites such as Etowah, Spiro and Moundville. The presence, or absence of, exotic copper in a burial would be a designation of status. The hawkman dancer style copper breast plates found in some burials are some of the most distinctive iconography of the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex.



LAKE JACKSON MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATE PARK

3600 Indian Mounds Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Mailing Address: 1358 Old Woodville Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327
850- 487-7989

PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a handheld leash no longer than six feet and well-behaved at all times.
- To become a volunteer at Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park, call 850-487-7989.
- Pavilion rental is available. Please contact the park office at least two weeks in advance to ensure availability.
- Florida State Parks are committed to providing equal access for all visitors to facilities and programs. If you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the park office.

[FloridaStateParks.org](https://www.floridastateparks.org)

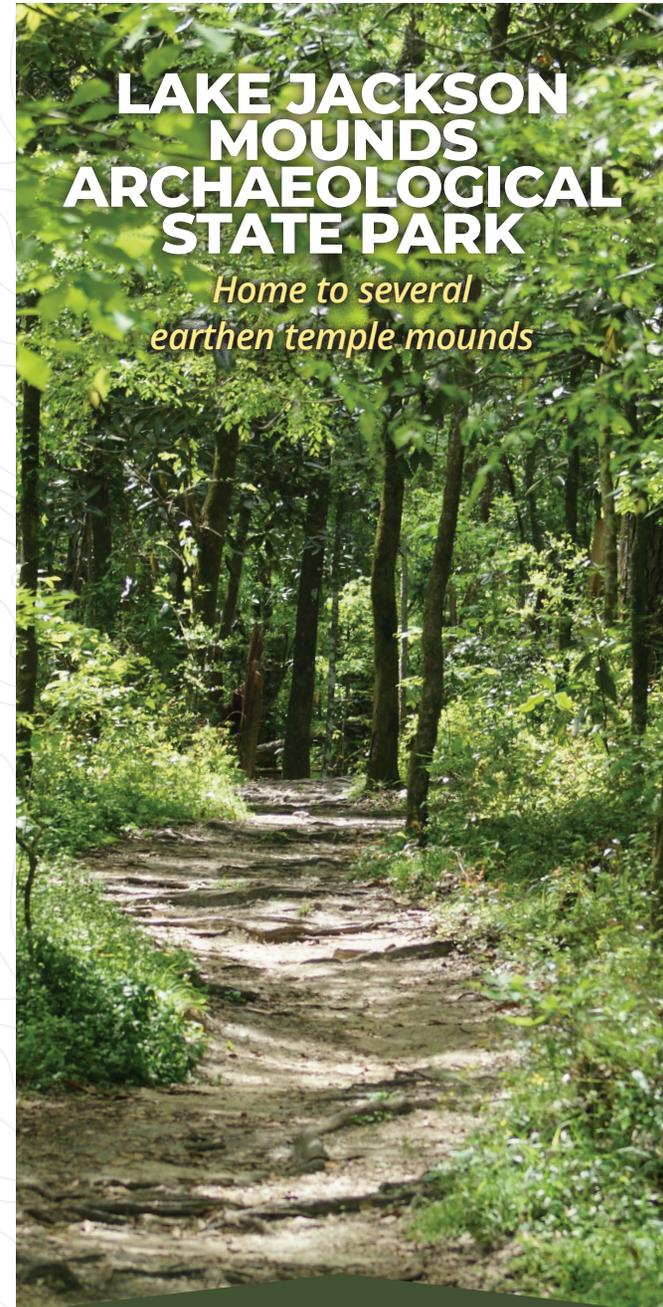
Follow us on social media

#FLStateParks



LAKE JACKSON MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATE PARK

*Home to several
earthen temple mounds*



**FLORIDA
STATE PARKS**

...the Real FloridaSM

EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

More than eight centuries ago, Native Americans inhabited the area around Lake Jackson, just north of Tallahassee. Today the park site preserves the remains of six of the seven known earthen temple mounds. The two intact available for viewing by the public are situated in an open area that would have been used as a central plaza.

The mound complex was composed of the seven mounds, surrounded by scattered hamlets and farmsteads. Six mounds in the complex form two paired East to West rows and are oriented toward the cardinal points. The largest mound is 278 feet by 312 feet at the base and approximately 36 feet in height.

Park trails offer visitors a chance to **hike** within the park, including an **interpretive trail** that passes remnants of Florida's Territorial Period and early statehood (1825-60). The land was part of a large plantation and grist mill owned by Colonel Robert Butler, the nephew-in-law of Andrew Jackson and the first Surveyor General of Florida. **The Old Orchard Trail system** winds through forested hills where giant trees from a pecan orchard can still be found. **Picnic tables** are located within view of the two largest mounds. A **pavilion** is available for family gatherings and other special occasions. **Guided tours** are available upon request.

Lake Jackson offers numerous opportunities for **wildlife viewing** and **bird watching**. Park visitors may encounter deer, squirrels, turtles, and a variety of bird species including osprey, red-shouldered hawks, northern cardinals, ruby-throated hummingbirds and summer tanagers. The wooded area of the park is made up of upland pinelands and ravine forest. Herbaceous plant species such as violets, trillium and rattlesnake fern are common.



Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park

