

## History & Nature

There is evidence that the Lake Jackson Indians participated in a southeastern socio-religious complex known to archaeologists as the "Southern Cult" or "Southeastern Ceremonial Complex," which flourished around A.D. 1200. The area was probably the political and religious center for Indians of this location during the period A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1500. A society that could develop a site of this type is believed to have had a well-organized political system with tribal leaders more than likely residing in regional centers like the Lake Jackson site.

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. The site dates back to the Fort Walton period of Florida's history (1000 A.D.-1450 A.D.).

The remains of important tribal members have been found at the site. The array of burial objects include elaborate items such as copper breast plates, shell beaded necklaces, bracelets, anklets and cloaks. These exotic artifacts indicate religious and trading ties with other large pre-historic Indian ceremonial centers in the southeastern United States such as Etowah in Georgia, Moundville in Alabama, and Duck River in Tennessee.



### Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

#### Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park

3600 Indian Mounds Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
(850) 922-6007

[FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org)

### 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 well-behaved and kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet at all times.
- To become a volunteer at Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park, call (850) 922-6007.
- 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 park office.
- Pavilion rental is available. Please contact the park office a minimum of two weeks in advance to make reservations.

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**FLORIDA**  
State Parks  
*...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>*

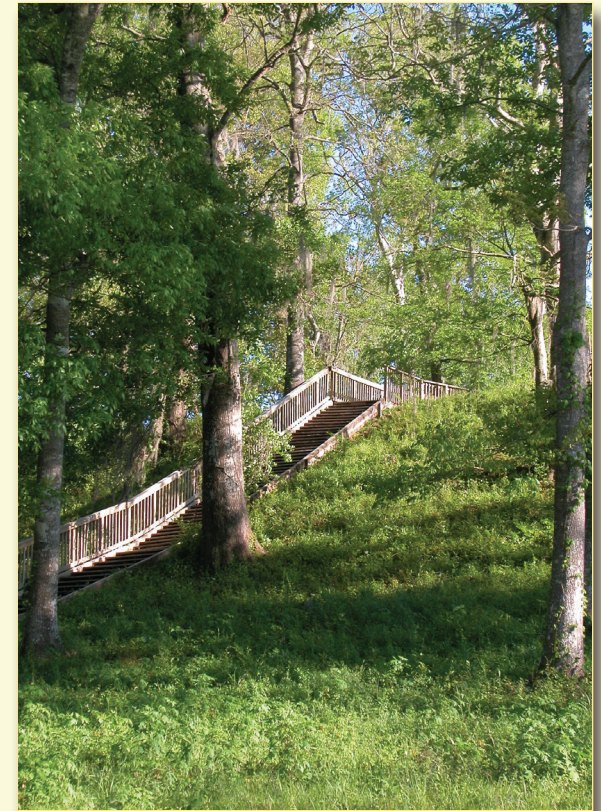
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Northwest  
Florida

## Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park

Home to several earthen temple mounds



*...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>*



**National Gold Medal Winner**

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



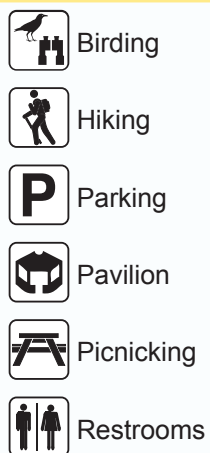
## Real Fun in ...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>

More than eight centuries ago, Native Americans inhabited the area around Lake Jackson, just north of Tallahassee. The park site was part of what is now known as the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex. Today the park encompasses four earthen temple mounds, with two available for viewing by the public.

The largest mound is 278 feet by 312 feet at the base and approximately 36 feet in height. The village at the base of these mounds was a cultural, religious and population center in 1100-1200 AD.

Our trails offer visitors a chance to **hike** within the park. The **interpretive trail** passes remnants of Florida's Territorial Period and early statehood (1825-1860) when the land was part of a large plantation owned by Colonel Robert Butler. The remains of an 1800s grist mill may be seen along the trail. The **nature trail** winds through a sandhill community, passing many native trees and plants. **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.



### Directions

Located off U.S. 27, two miles north of I-10 in Tallahassee. Turn right on Crowder Road, then right on Indian Mounds Road.

