

History & Culture

Letchworth-Love Mounds is a significant cultural resource. Artifacts recovered from the site span a period of some 12,000 years. The large Letchworth Mound is 46 feet high, with an apparent platform on the south east side. The remains of a ramp are visible. The people who built the mound are believed to have been members of the late Swift Creek (200-450 A.D.) and early to middle Weeden Island cultures, a group of Native Americans who lived in North Florida between 450 and 900 A.D. During this time, the site is considered to have functioned as an important civil and ceremonial center for many of the neighboring settlements in North Florida and possibly also the greater Southeast.

The village associated with the Letchworth-Love Mound complex is considered to have been on the south side of the large mound.

The site is part of a larger mound complex that extends beyond the park boundaries. The ceremonial mound, the centerpiece of the park, is part of a complex of between 20 and 28 smaller mounds associated with the many aboriginal mounds clustered along nearby Lake Miccosukee. The Letchworth Mound site predates the Lake Jackson Mound complex north of Tallahassee, and was thought to be the eastern capital of a Native American culture, with Lake Jackson as the western capital.

Prior to becoming a state park most of the land was agricultural, including livestock production. Acquisition by the state began in 1992 to protect and preserve the mound and related archaeological deposits. The park opened to the public in 1998.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park

4500 Sunray Road South
Tallahassee, Florida 32309
(850) 922-6007

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 are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet and well behaved at all times.
- Become a volunteer. 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 call (850) 922-6007.

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Northwest
Florida

Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park

Home to the largest Native American
mound in Florida



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National Gold Medal Winner

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

Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

What would it feel like to carry basket after basket of earth, day after day, until the mound you were creating reached 46 feet in height? That is how the ceremonial mound at Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park was created. Visitors to the park will see Florida's tallest Native American ceremonial mound. The history of the site is featured in the covered **pavilion** with an exhibit that includes **interpretive panels**, a **tactile replica** of the large mound, and **audio narration**.

In addition to archaeological and cultural experiences, there are many relaxing and fun things to do at Letchworth-Love Mounds. An **interpretive trail** winds around the perimeter of the ceremonial mound, connecting to the **Weeden Trail** and extending an additional half-mile through the park. The **picnic pavilion**, platform **viewing area** for the mound, **parking** and **restrooms** are all wheelchair-accessible.

The park offers numerous opportunities for **wildlife viewing** and **bird watching**. Eastern cottontail rabbit, bobcat, raccoon, gray and red fox and many other species call this habitat home. Beautiful **wildflowers** including St. Johns Wort, wild azalea, elephant's foot and Indian pipe bring life to the field while red maple, flowering dogwood and wax myrtle add color to the forest in their seasons. Park visitors may encounter a variety of bird species such as northern cardinal, tufted titmice, Carolina chickadee, red-shouldered hawk, pileated woodpecker, and brown-headed nuthatch.

