ALEXANDER STATE FOREST

Woodworth, Louisiana

Alexander State Forest was established in 1923 when the state purchased 2,068 acres for $12,500 from Mrs. Eloise Polk Burrows. Though originally intended to be the first of several state-owned demonstration forests, today it is the only one. The Forest was named in honor of M.L. Alexander, Louisiana’s first commissioner of conservation and a relative of Mrs. Burrows.

Nine additional purchases of adjacent properties over the next 15 years expanded Alexander State Forest to its present size of almost 8,000 acres. The multiple-use forest contains approximately 700 acres of hardwood bottomland, 4,800 acres of loblolly, slash and longleaf pines, and 2,250 acres of Indian Creek Lake. It is managed for timber production, forestry research, and recreation. In addition, the forest is a game management area.

Shortly after the turn of the century, most of the area was cut-over and left barren, but today Alexander State Forest is an excellent example of reforestation. It contains an estimated 35 million board feet of timber, and some 1.5 million board feet are harvested annually. From 1933 to 1940, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was located on the Forest. During this period the Corps planted much of the land to pine and constructed 35 miles of excellent road system still in use today. The CCC enrollees at the State Forest camp, all World War I veterans, also built the log administration building. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 175-foot Woodworth Tower in the Forest’s headquarters compound is believed to be the world’s tallest fire tower.

The State Forest, including Indian Creek Recreation Area, is maintained largely by inmates from the Rapides Parish Sheriff’s department through an agreement between them and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry. The State Forest and the Recreation Area have been maintained with the use of inmate labor for nearly 25 years. This program has served as a model for other public agencies using inmate labor.

RECREATION AREA

Within the Alexander State Forest is Indian Creek Recreation Area, with 100 acres of developed recreation facilities, 250 acres of primitive camping area, and the 2,250-acre Indian Creek Lake. The lake was constructed as a joint venture of the Louisiana Forestry Commission, the Rapides Parish Police Jury and the Lower West Red River Soil and Water Conservation District as a reservoir to be used for agricultural irrigation in times of need and for recreation purposes.

Indian Creek Recreation Area contains 101 campsites with water and electricity, three swimming beaches, bath houses, a boat launch ramp, and some 75 picnic sites. A pavilion within the developed area will accommodate groups of up to 100 people.

The primitive camping area is designed primarily for tent camping. Only parking and camping spaces are provided; there are no water and chemical toilets.

The recreation area is open year round. All revenue collected through user fees is returned to Indian Creek Recreation Area for operational expenses. From October 1 to February 1, special winter rates are available.

Facilities are available on a first-come basis only, except for the pavilion. It is recommended that pavilion reservations be made as far in advance as possible, especially for use during outdoor months, because demand for this facility is heavy.

Camping on Alexander State Forest is restricted to designated areas in the Indian Creek Recreation Area.

Indian Creek Hiking Trail is a two-and-a-half mile long path through mixed pine-hardwood forest. The trail traverses uplands and minor stream bottoms, providing access to a variety of habitats and plant species. A wide variety of animal and bird species utilize this habitat including the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

The trail follows the shore of Indian Creek Lake in some places providing scenic viewing and photographic opportunity. There is easy access to the Trail on foot from the entrance station, camping area and primitive area. It is marked by a sign at each road crossing and is marked along its length by white painted marks on trees.
PARK POLICIES

Policies for Indian Creek Recreation Area are formulated to ensure the safety and pleasure of its users and to enhance the beauty and serenity of the park. A list of park rules is published on a separate brochure along with a map of the park's facilities. Your kind cooperation in observing them will be appreciated by other users and by those who work very hard to maintain the park.

FOREST POLICIES

Alexander State Forest is managed in the multiple-use concept: timber, wildlife, water, recreation, and aesthetics. It is the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's mission to enhance these management operations. To be successful, the agency has established policies regulating human activities both within and outside of the Indian Creek Recreation Area. Such policies are:

1. All vehicles, including motorcycles, bicycles and ATVs are restricted to improved gravel and hard-surfaced roads.
2. Vehicle parking is restricted to road shoulders and established parking sites.
3. Dumping of trash, limbs, leaves or littering is not allowed.
4. Intentional rutting, "mud riding" and vandalism of roads and shoulders will not be tolerated.
5. Swimming or swimming from bridges are not allowed.
6. Swimming will be permitted in the designated beach areas inside the recreation area only.
7. Posted speed limits will be observed.
8. Drunkenness, nudity or disorderly conduct is prohibited.
9. Camping and campfires are allowed only within the recreation area.
10. Pets are not allowed to molest wildlife. The only exception is that retrievers and hunting bird dogs are allowed on the forest under the control of the owner during hunting season and only in areas open to hunting. All other times pets must be kept on a leash.
11. Use of firearms, B.B., and other pellet guns are allowed only during legal hunting season during legal shooting hours and only in the pursuit of legal game in season. All other times, use of firearms and such is prohibited except at the DWF rifle range. Firearms must be encased or broken down while being transported through the State Forest.

12. Fireworks are prohibited.
13. Cutting, damaging or digging up live trees or shrubs is prohibited without a permit and violators will be subject to arrest and fines.
14. Cutting deadwood (firewood) is allowed by permit only and only in designated areas.
15. Alexander State Forest is home to the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. Federal laws protect these birds and their habitat from molestation. These birds may be observed from a distance.

HUNTING

Alexander State Forest is a game management area. Hunting is subject to wildlife management area rules and regulations as approved and adapted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Valid Louisiana hunting licenses are required. Hunting is allowed on most areas of the forest, exceptions being the headquarters complex area and the recreation area. Restricted areas are posted. Maps are available.

FISHING

Indian Creek Lake offers excellent fishing opportunity for bream, white perch, bass and catfish. Fishing is permitted year round, and in accordance with state fishing regulations. A valid Louisiana fishing license is required for all persons 16 years or older.

FISH HATCHERY

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries operates a fish hatchery on land adjoining Alexander State Forest's southern border. Here, fingerlings are grown for distribution to lakes throughout Louisiana.

Please direct all inquiries regarding Alexander State Forest and Indian Creek Recreation Areas to:

State Forest Complex Manager
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Alexander State Forest
Post Office Box 298
Woodworth, LA 71485

Telephone(s) (318) 487-5058 (Indian Creek Recreation Area)
(318) 487-5172 (Alexander State Forest Headquarters)
NATIVE TREES ON ALEXANDER STATE FOREST

- Slash Pine
- Longleaf Pine
- Loblolly Pine
- Bald Cypress
- Red Maple
- American Sycamore
- Willow Oak
- Sweetgum
- Tupelo-Gum
- Water Oak
- Dogwood
- Blackgum
- Southern Red Oak
- Green Ash
- White Oak