





Conservation Lands

The Alachua County Forever Conservation Lands Program is the County's conservation land acquisition and management program. It was established in 2000 after the Alachua County Forever Bond referendum was approved by the voters of Alachua County. This referendum enabled the County to bond \$29,000,000 for the acquisition and management of environmentally significant lands. Alachua County Forever has since been renewed twice through the Wild Spaces Public Places referenda, the first time in 2008 when voters approved a 2-year ½-cent sales tax, and then again in 2016 when voters approved an 8-year ½-cent sales tax. With the first two programs, the County conserved nearly 20,000 acres and leveraged over 50% of the cost through partners and matching funds. Properties acquired through the program are managed either in house or by partners. Partners manage 40% of the acquired properties, thus significantly reducing the County's management costs.

Mission Statement

To acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource based recreation.

Vision and Values

Alachua County Forever will be a conscientious, innovative, progressive leader in land conservation and use acquisition, stewardship and funding development practices to preserve the environmental integrity of Alachua County and improve the quality of life for current and future generations.





Objectives

- 1. To be accountable to the taxpayers.
- 2. To acquire the most environmentally significant habitats.
- 3. To use a 'No Loss of Conservation Values' stewardship ethic.
- 4. To treat partners, landowners and sellers with respect.
- 5. To leverage the County's local investment.
- 6. To encourage a community land ethic.
- 7. To provide safe, enjoyable, passive nature-based recreational opportunities

Acquisition Process

- The public nominates property to the Program using a simple one-page form.
- Property owners must be willing. Condemnation of property is not permitted.
- Projects are evaluated by staff using a 25-question matrix and presented to the Land Conservation Board.
- Criteria include water resources protection, habitat protection,
 species protection, social value, manageability, economic and acquisition issues.
- After reviewing the evaluation, the Land Conservation Board determines which projects to recommend to the County Commissioners for inclusion on the Acquisition List.
- The County Commission decides which projects will be placed on the Acquisition List.
- The more environmentally significant, the better the chance it will be approved by the Land Conservation Board and the County Commission.
- Once projects are on the Acquisition List, staff can negotiate to acquire property outright, through life estates or conservation easements.
- Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals of market value.
- Acquisitions are currently funded through proceeds from the 2016 Wild Spaces Public Places ½-cent sales tax.
- Million of dollars have been provided by partner agencies, cities, private groups, individuals and grants.



Stewardship of acquired properties begins with an in-depth assessment of existing conditions, including natural resources and passive recreational opportunities. A management plan is developed from this assessment that describes the existing and future desired condition of the natural resources, the

actions necessary to achieve the future desired conditions, proposed passive recreational uses, actions to protect cultural resources, and a master plan that includes public access and recreational amenities. After a public comment period and public meeting are held to get input from neighbors, stakeholders and the general public, the management plan is presented to the County Commission for approval. Once approved by the County Commission, staff implements the management plan through the use of prescribed burning, controlling invasive species, planting and seeding vegetation, timber thinning, removing solid waste, site monitoring, developing and maintaining roads, trails and firebreaks, securing the site, installing and maintaining public access and recreational amenities, and developing interpretive materials, hosting volunteer workdays and nature walks. The County offsets management costs through timber sales, cattle leases, caretaker agreements, volunteers and grants.











Land Conservation Board

The 11 member (plus one alternate) volunteer Land Conservation Board is appointed by the County Commission. They review and recommend properties for acquisition through the Alachua County Forever Program to the County Commission and provide recommendations on stewardship issues. They usually meet at 5:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Environmental Protection Department's Conference Room A (408 West University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601). Information about vacancies can be found on the County's website.





Alachua County Forever Conservation Lands Program

Land Acquisition Project Nomination Form

1 Applicant Informat	ion	The lates			at the season		
Applicant Name:							
Street Address:							
City:			State:	FL Zip:			
Phone:	Fax:		Email:				
Applicant Signature:			Date:				
2 Property Owner Vo	erification	3	Access Au	thorization	7 TO 10 15	11 × 11	
Does the Applicant have any property ownership interest in the project?		By signing below, I as the property owner, authorize County staff to access said property at reasonable hours and upon reasonable notice for the purpose of conducting such review as may be necessary to determine eligibility of the property. (Valid only for property owner to authorize access)					
	check one) Please sign and date #	Owner Sign	nature:		Date:/_	/	
No Skip to #4 Yes		5	Ourner's A	uthonimad Amant /if	annlinable)	19 19 19	
4 Property Owner Information				uthorized Agent (if	applicable	A DUNE	
Owner Name:			Agent's name:				
Street Address:		Street Ad	dress:	01.1			
City: State:	Zip:	City:		State:	Zip:		
Phone: Fax:		Phone:		Fax:	-		
Email:		Email:					
6 Project Informatio		HAME IN THE REAL PROPERTY.	- 18 (37) A			A STATE OF	
General Location (address, inte							
Is this a Conservation Easemer		ent Rights	Projects?	(please check box)			
Tax Parcel Acreage (if known):				age (if known):			
Tax Parcel Number (if known) : Section/Township/Range (if known) :			Please check here if this is a multiparcel project (A map outlining the project area or a list of the additional parcel numbers would assist staff's evaluation of the project)				
Future Land Use Map Designat	tion (if known):		esignation (if		э р. ојест,		
7 Project Descriptio	THE PERSON NAMED AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED AND ADDRESS O	's ecological s	significance, natu	ral resources, scenic bea	auty, wiidlife hebiti	at etc.	
				,4		ž.	
			ine. Staff Use Only				
Time/Date Stamp	Please Return This Form to: Alachua County Parks and Conservation Lands 408 West University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601 phone: (352) 264 6800 fax: (352) 264 6852 http://www.alachuacountyforever.us Contact the Conservation Lands staff at the						
Received by.	Questions?			tion Lands staff at the			
Alachua County FOREVER	The	ank y	ou!		WILD, publi	ietz CES	

11/17/2016

Additional Information (Optional)

In addition to this form, up to 15 pages of text, maps, etc. may be attached for consideration. Providing supplemental information is optional, but may assist Staff with the evaluation of the property.

Examples:

- A location map with the property outlined and any other important features (i.e. access points, roads, water bodies, landmarks, etc.)
- A topographic quadrangle map (U.S.G.S. with boundaries of property sketched in)
- ★ Photographs or video representing the characteristics of the property
- ★ Estimate of the market value (This can be documented with a property appraisal, if available, or asking price).
- ★ Documentation of owner(s) willingness to sell
- ★ Description and analysis of environmental resources and features

Alachua County Forever was established to protect the finest examples of Alachua County's natural communities, endangered species, and rich biological diversity. The citizens of Alachua County authorized the Alachua County Forever program by public referendum on November, 2000. The referendum provided ad valorem revenues to support \$29 million in bond funds for the acquisition and management of environmentally significant lands. Voters reauthorized funding with the Wild Spaces Public Places referendum first in 2008 providing an additional \$14 million in sale tax proceeds then again in 2016. Public access, passive recreation and environmental education are addressed as components of the overall acquisition and conservation objectives of the program.

The

Land Conservation Board (LCB) is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners to review property for possible acquisition for the protection of environmentally significant land in Alachua County. All proposed purchases must be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval prior to initiating a contract purchase.

ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER CONSERVATION LANDS PROGRAM Frequently Asked Questions about the nomination process

- **Lan** I submit an application if I am not the property owner?
 - **YES.** The process allows anyone to nominate projects to ACF.
- **a** Can I nominate land for acquisition without the property owner's permission?
 - YES. However ACF acquires land from willing sellers only. The owner may request the land be removed from consideration at any time during the process. The owner will also be asked to grant permission for staff to access the property to conduct a site inspection.
- **a** Can I hire an agent to represent me?
 - YES. While it is not necessary to hire a real estate agent, it may be advisable if it would make you more comfortable with the process. The agent would work for you and be paid out of the proceeds due to you from the sale.
- **Can I obtain information on property ownership, Tax Parcel Number, Land Use, Zoning and Tax Assessment?**
 - YES. Contact the Alachua County Property Appraiser's Office (374-5230) and the Alachua County Growth Management Department (374-5249). You may also obtain maps and aerial photographs from the departments listed above, or you may purchase a U.S.G.S. topographical map from most outdoor recreation stores.
- 🏜 Can I submit a multi-parcel project?
 - YES. You should check the box provided and list all of the parcel numbers of your proposed project on the form. In addition, you may submit a map outlining the proposed project boundary.
- Let If I have a report that would support my application but that is longer than the 15 pages allowed, may I submit it with the nomination form?
 - YES. You may submit any published and bound publication that would assist staff in their evaluation of the proposal documentation. You may also submit the form with just a reference to the publication. Any loose materials should stay within the 15-page limit.
- ****** May I nominate any size project?
 - YES. The Commission has not set size limits on proposed projects. However, the evaluation criteria favor larger proposals.
- ****** Are there opportunities for me and others to speak on the proposal?
 - YES. The Land Conservation Board and the Board of County Commissioners hold public hearings and workshops concerning the proposals throughout the application process. Staff will attempt to contact the property owners and the nominator in advance of these meetings.
- Which is the second of the second was successful? Which is the second was successful?
 - At least twice a year, County staff submits a list of proposals to the Land Conservation Board for ranking. These meetings are open to the public. The length of time it takes to review and evaluate the proposals depends greatly on the number of nominations and the complexity of the proposals.

PRESERVE HOURS

8 AM-6 PM (Nov-April)

8 AM-8 PM (May-Oct)

PRESERVE RULES

"Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time."

- No Dogs. There are too many alligators.
- Feeding alligators is dangerous and illegal (FAC 68A-25.001).
- Pack out what you pack in.
- Leave what you find. Collecting plants, animals, artifacts or fossils is prohibited
- For your own safety, Stay on the Levee.
- Trails are for pedestrians and cyclists only
- Visitors who remain after hours are trespass-
- Be a good neighbor to our neighbors
- Respect their privacy
- Stay on marked trails
- Park in the designated parking area
- Stay off private roads

ADVICE FOR THE TRAILS

- For your comfort and safety, wear sunscreen and a hat, use insect repellent and carry water
- Do not approach alligators blocking the

PARTNERS IN ACQUISITION

preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources North American Wetland Conservation Act grants, a donation Other funding was through Florida Communities Trust Grants, County Forever Bond, and the Wild Spaces Public Places sales tax 2006 & 2010. Alachua County provided funding from the Alachua Management District . The preserve was purchased to protect from the Whitehurst family, and the Southwest Florida Water The 5,719-acre Barr Hammock Preserve was bought between

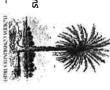
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vides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conser The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provation projects in the

migratory birds and other wildlife. United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated



Natural Resources Conservation Service

servation Service manages a Federally-owned conservation easement on The USDA, Natural Resources Con-

(c)(3) non-profit land trust that partnered with the property. The Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a 501 this property and contributes to the management of

County with field trips and educational programs. www.conserveflorida.org Alachua County in preparing the grant applications to acquire the Preserve and currently assists Alachua

ALACHUA COUNTY

Environmental Protection Department, Land Conservation Division 408 W. University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601

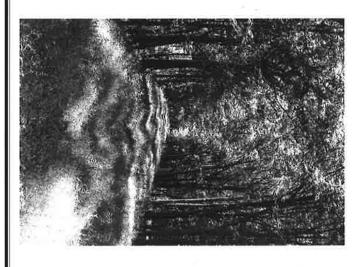
E-mail: landconservation@alachuacounty.us

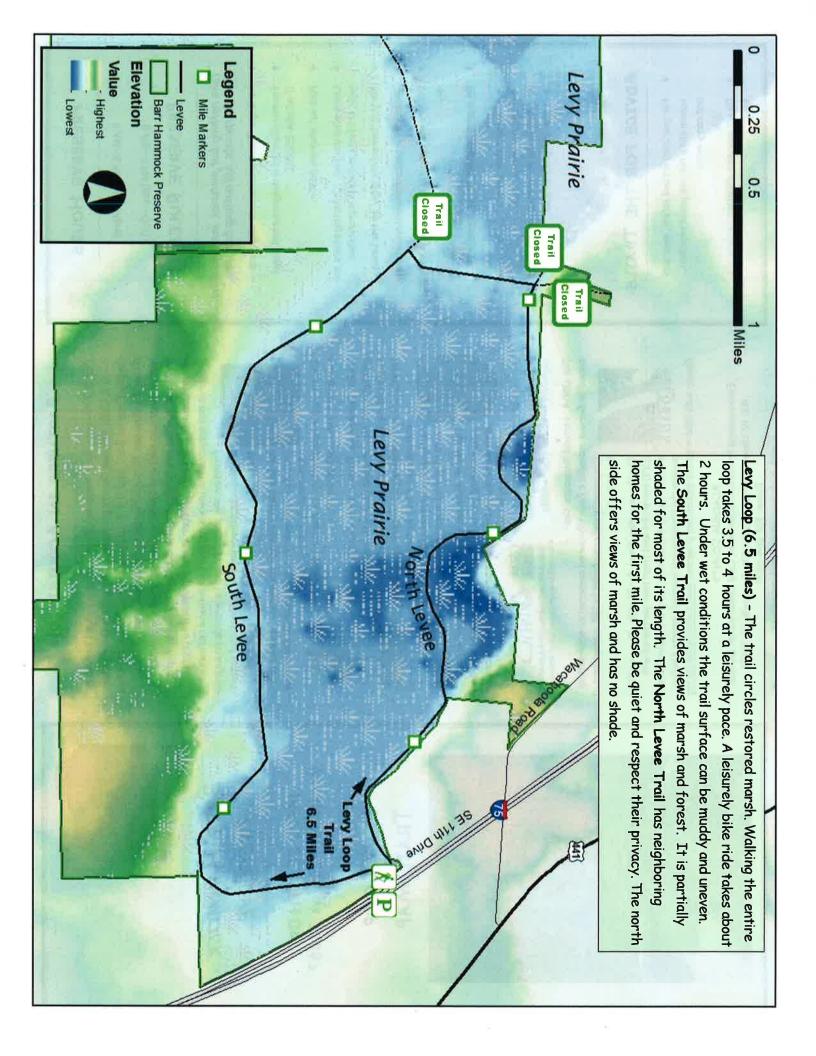


BARR HAMMOCK PRESERVE

MICANOPY, FLORIDA 32667 14920 SE 11TH DR.

LEVY LOOP TRAIL MAP





"Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time."

- Enter the Preserve through designated trail heads only.
- Trails are open from 8:00 am 6:00 pm November through April and 8:00 am 8:00 pm May through October.
- Visitors who remain after hours are trespassing.
- Pack out what you pack in.
- Trails are for cyclists, equestrians and hikers only.
- Trails are multi-use. Cyclists must yield to hikers and equestrians.
- Preserve visitors may not establish new trails.
- Help prevent erosion by staying on the trails.
- Collecting or disturbing plants, animals, artifacts or fossils is prohibited.
- Leashed dogs are allowed on trails provided owners pick up after them.

Advice for Trail Visitors

- Natural areas and wildlife may be hazardous.
- Established trails are marked with trail signs; other roads are unmarked.
- Stay alert, stay on the marked trails, and stay safe.
- During wet weather trails may be flooded.
- Be prepared for uneven terrain some trails are harrowed (disked) for firebreaks.
- For your comfort and safety, wear sunscreen and a hat, use insect repellent and carry water.

Partners in Acquisition



Funding for acquisition of Lake Alto Preserve was provided by the voter-approved Alachua

County Forever Bond.

The Suwannee River Water Management District co-owns 120 acres of Lake Alto Preserve with Alachua County.



Alachua County Environmental Protection Department Land Conservation Division 408 W. University Ave. Suite 106

Gainesville, FL 32601

Phone: 352-264-6800
E-mail: landconservation@alachuacounty.us
Web: http://www.alachuacountyforever.us



LAKE ALTO PRESERVE NORTH TRACT

14500 NE County Road 1471 Waldo, Florida

Trail Map

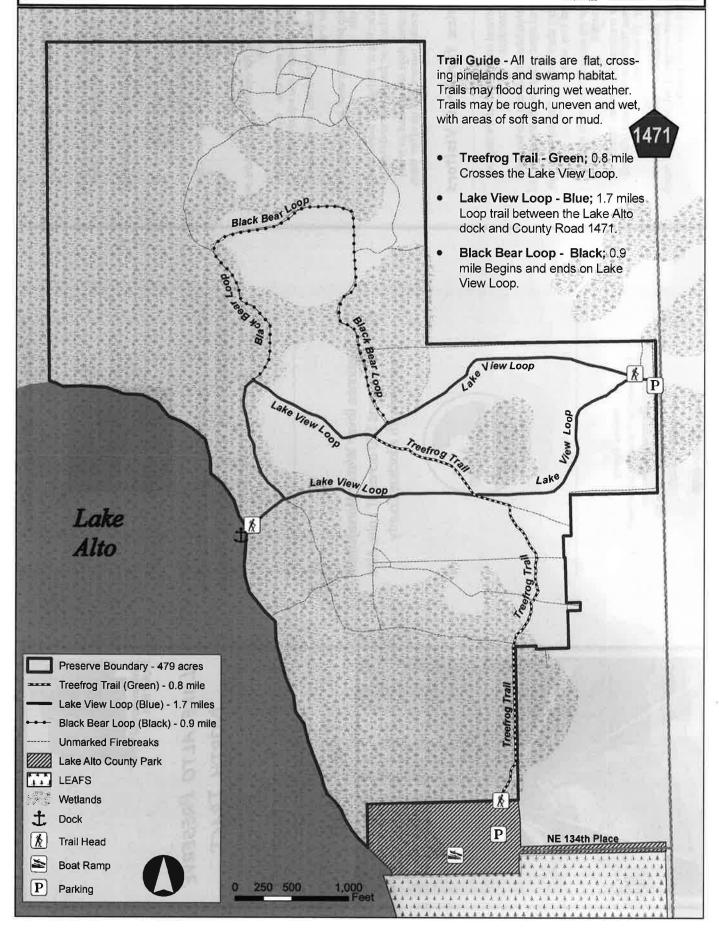


Lake Alto Preserve Trail Map









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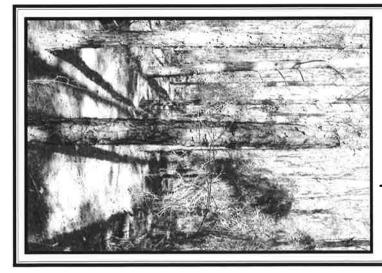
Web: http://www.alachuacountyforever.us



LAKE ALTO PRESERVE SOUTH TRACT

18795 NE 132nd Avenue Waldo, Florida

Trail Map

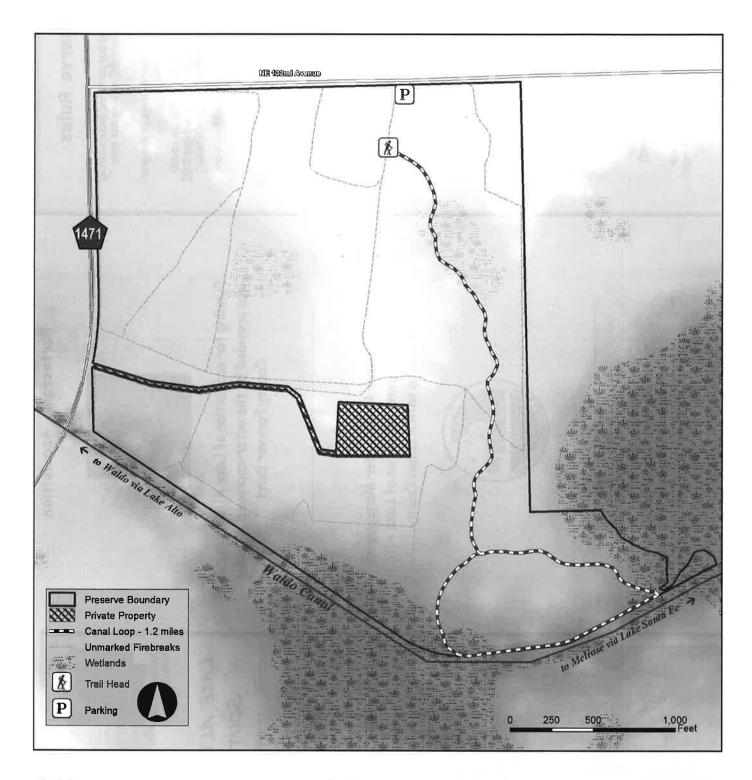


Lake Alto Preserve South Tract Trail Map









Trail Guide - Most of the trails are generally flat, crossing pinelands and hammock habitats. A short but steep hill is located at each end of the canal bank footpath. Trails may flood during wet weather. Trail surfaces may be rough, uneven and wet, with areas of roots, soft sand or mud.

• Canal Loop (Blue) - 1.2 miles. A portion of the trail follows the historic Waldo Canal. Hikers may walk on a narrow footpath along the top of the canal bank. A parallel trail at the toe of the bank is available for cyclists and equestrians.

PRESERVE RULES

"Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time."

- Trails are open from sunrise to sunset 365 days a year.
- Pack out what you pack in.
- Trails are for pedestrians only.
- Help prevent erosion by staying on the trails.
- Leashed dogs are allowed on trails provided owners pick up after them.

ADVICE FOR THE TRAILS

- During wet weather trails may be under water.
- Be prepared for rough or soft trails – some roadways are utilized for fire breaks and are periodically harrowed.
- For your comfort and safety, wear sunscreen or a hat, use insect repellent and carry water.

ABOUT ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER AND FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST

The 1,230 acre Mill Creek Preserve was bought in 2002 by Alachua County with funding from the Alachua County Forever Bond and a Florida Communities Trust Grant. The preserve was purchased to protect, preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources found on the property and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience.



Alachua County Forever

is a land conservation program that protects environmentally significant lands through a \$29 million, citizen approved bond initiative. The program is housed

within the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department.

Florida Communities Trust

is a state land acquisition grant program that provides funding to local governments and eligible non-profit environmental organizations for acquisition of community-based parks, open space and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans.



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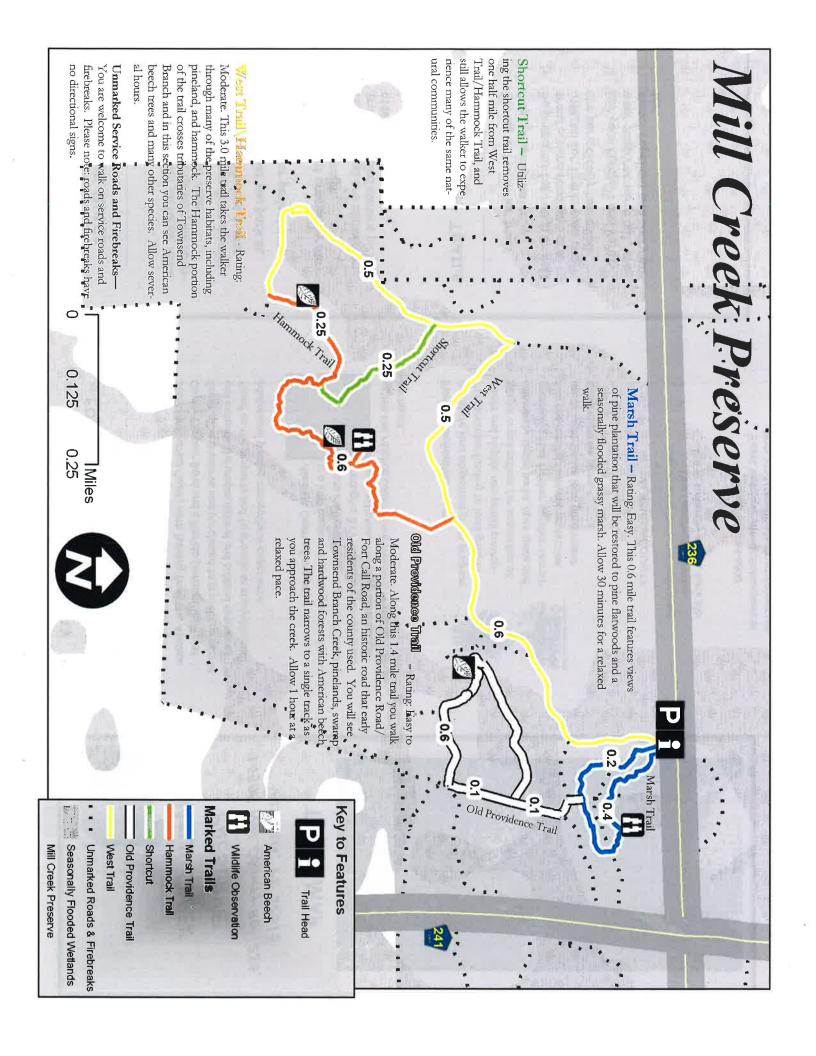


MILL CREEK PRESERVE

14505 NW COUNTY RD. 236 ALACHUA, FL 32615

TRAIL MAP





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- Trails are multi-use. Cyclists must yield to hikers and equestrians.
- Preserve visitors may not establish new trails.
- Help prevent erosion by staying on the trails.
- Collecting plants, animals, artifacts or fossils is prohibited.
- Leashed dogs are allowed on trails provided owners pick up after them.

Advice for the Trails

- Natural areas and wildlife may be hazardous.
- Stay alert, stay on the established trails, and stay safe.
- Established trails are marked with blue blazes and signs; other roads and firebreaks are unmarked.
- During wet weather trails may be under water.
- Be prepared for uneven terrain some trails are maintained as fire-breaks.
- For your comfort and safety, wear sunscreen and a hat, use insect repellent and carry water.

Partners in Acquisition

The preservation of Phifer Flatwoods Preserve was



made possible by the dedication and quick action of Alachua Conservation Trust and its many friends and supporters. In 2005 the land was put up for auction and nearly purchased by

a Louisiana developer. Aware of the critical timing in the pending sale, ACT quickly rallied the support of the local community, receiving loans from more than 50 individuals, foundations, and non-profit groups, and gifts from more than 250 households. This valiant group effort raised nearly \$3 million for the initial land purchase. Alachua County purchased Phifer Flatwoods from ACT using Alachua County Forever funds and a Florida Communities Trust Grant, protecting the land for future generations.

Alachua County Forever



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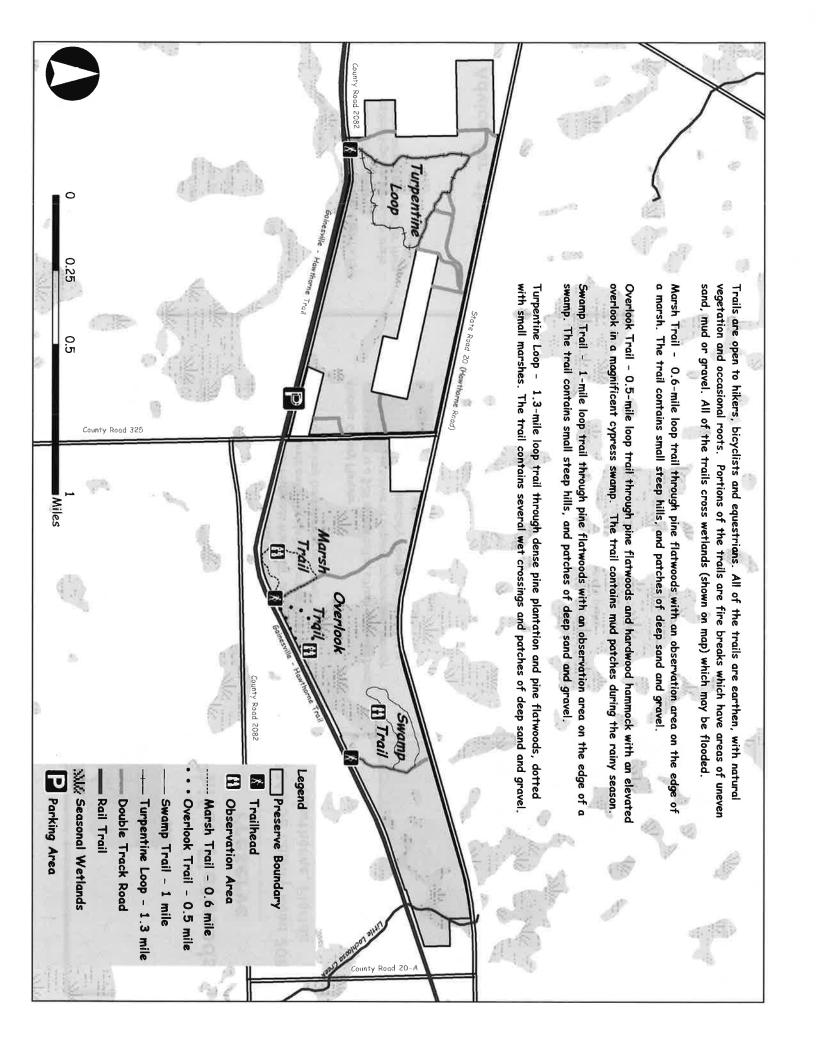
Phifer Flatwoods Preserve

12243 SE County Road 2082 Hawthorne, Florida

Trail Map



Slash pines (*Pinus elliottii)*



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- Trails are open from sunrise to sunset 365 days a year.
- Pack out what you pack in.
- Trails are for pedestrians & bicyclists only.
- Multi-use trails are used by hikers & bikers. Bikers must yield to hikers.
- Preserve patrons may not establish new trails without permission from the County.
- Help prevent erosion by staying on the trails.
- Collecting plants, animals, artifacts or fossils is prohibited.
- Leashed dogs are allowed on trails provided owners pick up after them.

Advice for the Trails

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- During wet weather trails may be under water.
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About Alachua County Forever and Florida Communities Trust

The 125 acre Sweetwater Preserve was bought in 2006 by Alachua County with funding from the Alachua County Forever Bond and a Florida Communities Trust Grant. The preserve was purchased to protect, preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources found on the property and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience.

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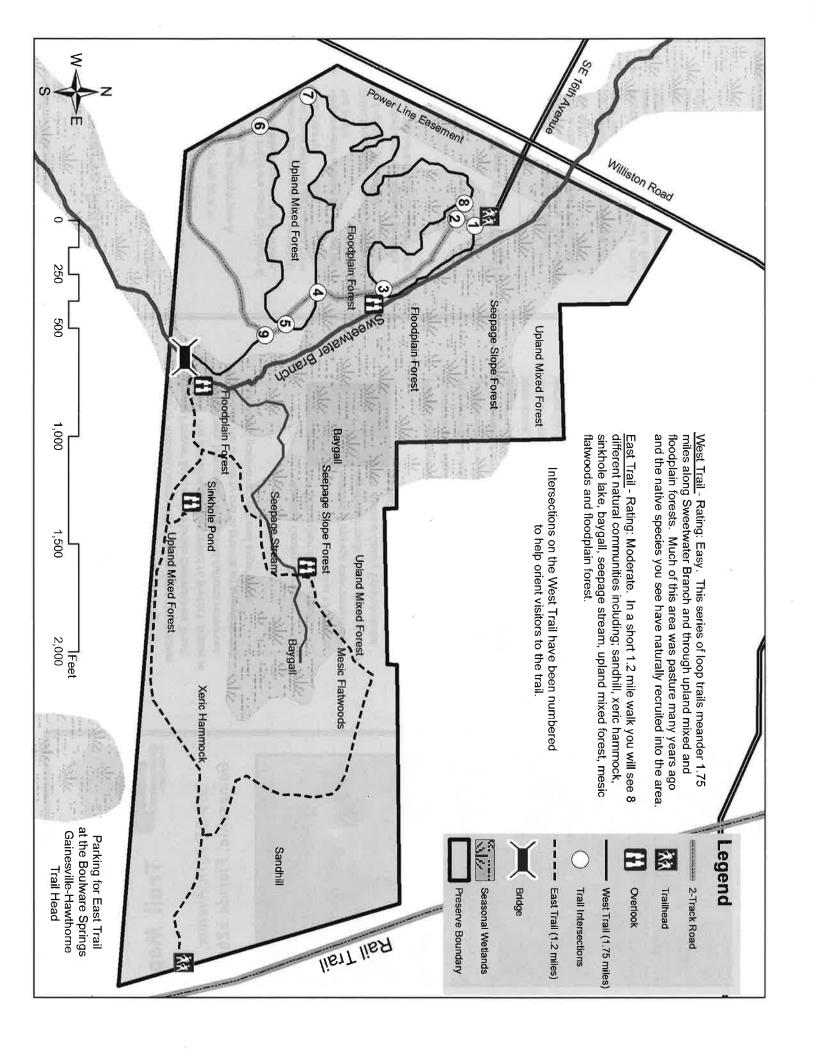
Sweetwater Preserve

Trail Map

309 SE 16th Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32667



Honeycombhead, Balduina angustifolia



Alachua County Forever Projects



Open Nature Preserves

Lakes

Map#	Purchased with ACF funds	Acreage	Notes
1	Barr Hammock Preserve	5702	
2	Buck Bay flatwoods Preserve	464	
3	Cofrin Nature Park	23	
4	Lake Alto Preserve	592	
5	Little Orange Creek	700	with ACF funds
6	Longleaf Flatwoods Preserve	2816	
7	Mill Creek Preserve	1226	
8	Newnans Lake Conservation Area	1866	with ACF funds
9	Phifer Flatwoods Preserve	1015	
10	Santa Fe River Ranch	464	with ACF funds
11	Sweetwater Preserve	125	
12	Turkey Creek Preserve	377	
13	Watermelon Pond Preserve	1269	
14	San Felasco Hammock Additions	272	



DISCLAIMER: This map and the spatial data it contains are made available as a public service, to be used for reference purposes only. The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department provides this information AS IS without warranty of any kind. The quality of the data is dependent on the various sources from which each data