



Conservation Lands

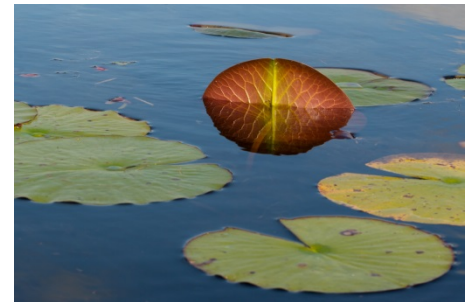
The Alachua County Forever Program is the County's conservation land acquisition and management program. It was established in 2000 after the Alachua County Forever Bond referendum was approved by the voters of Alachua County. The Bond provided \$29,000,000 for the acquisition and management of environmentally significant lands. Alachua County Forever has since been renewed twice through the Wild Spaces Public Places referenda, in 2008 when voters approved a 2-year ½-cent sales tax, and in 2016 when voters approved an 8-year ½-cent sales tax. So far, the County has conserved over 20,000 acres and leveraged almost 50% of the cost through partners and matching funds. Properties acquired through the program are managed either in house or by partners. Partners manage over 40% of the acquired properties, thus significantly reducing the County's management costs. The County manages almost 13,000 acres as part of its system of Preserves.

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 is a conscientious, innovative, progressive leader in land conservation and uses 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 sellers. 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 are placed on the Acquisition List.
- Once projects are on the Acquisition List, staff negotiate to acquire property outright, through life estates, or conservation easements.
- Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals of market value.
- Millions of dollars have been provided by partner agencies, cities, private groups, individuals, and grants.



Stewardship

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 that describes: existing and future desired condition of the natural resources; actions necessary to achieve the future desired condition; actions to protect cultural resources; and proposed 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 following activities: 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; developing interpretive materials; and hosting volunteer workdays and nature walks. The County offsets management costs through timber sales, cattle leases, caretaker agreements, volunteers and grants. The County further protects the Alachua County Forever Properties by placing them on the Registry of Protected Places. Once on the Registry, a majority vote of the electorate in a County-wide referendum is required to sell or convert the properties to another use.



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 Information

Applicant Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

FL

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

2 Property Owner Verification

Does the Applicant have any property ownership interest in the project?

(Please check one)

No ☐

Skip to #4

Yes ☐

Please sign and date #3

3 Access Authorization

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)

Owner Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

4 Property Owner Information

Owner Name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

5 Owner's Authorized Agent (if applicable)

Agent's name:

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

6 Project Information

General Location (address, intersection, etc.):

Is this a Conservation Easement or Purchase of Development Rights Projects? (please check box) ☐

Tax Parcel Acreage (if known):

Proposed Project Acreage (if known):

Tax Parcel Number (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) ☐

Section/Township/Range (if known):

Future Land Use Map Designation (if known):

Zoning Designation (if known):

7 Project Description

Describe the property's ecological significance, natural resources, scenic beauty, wildlife habitat etc.

Please Do Not Write Below This Line. Staff Use Only

Time/Date Stamp

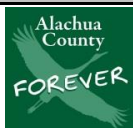
Please Return This Form to:

Application Number

Alachua County Parks and Conservation Lands
408 West University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601
phone: (352) 264 6868 fax: (352) 264 6852
<http://www.alachuacountyforever.us>

Questions?
Contact the Conservation Lands staff at the
address above or by our email

Received by:



Thank you!



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 re-authorized 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



Can I submit an application if I am not the property owner?



YES. The process allows anyone to nominate projects to ACF.



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.



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.



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.



How long will it take before I know if my proposal 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.

Alachua County Forever Acquisition List Projects



Legend

- ACF Acquisitions
- Lakes
- Active Acquisition List
- Eligibility Pool
- Acquired by Partners
- Nominated
- Conservation Lands

Open/Open Soon Nature Preserves

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	

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 trespassing.
- ◆ 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 trail.

PARTNERS IN ACQUISITION

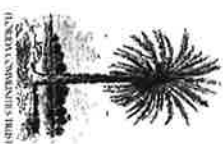
The 5,719-acre **Barr Hammock Preserve** was bought between 2006 & 2010. Alachua County provided funding from the Alachua County Forever Bond, and the Wild Spaces Public Places sales tax. Other funding was through Florida Communities Trust Grants, North American Wetland Conservation Act grants, a donation from the Whitehurst family, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. 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 seeks to acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands.

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.



The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service manages a Federally-owned conservation easement on this property and contributes to the management of the property.



The Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit land trust that partnered with Alachua County in preparing the grant applications to acquire the Preserve and currently assists Alachua County with field trips and educational programs. www.conserveflorida.org

ALACHUA COUNTY

Environmental Protection Department, Land Conservation Division
408 W. University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: 352-264-6800

E-mail: landconservation@alachuacounty.us



BARR HAMMOCK PRESERVE

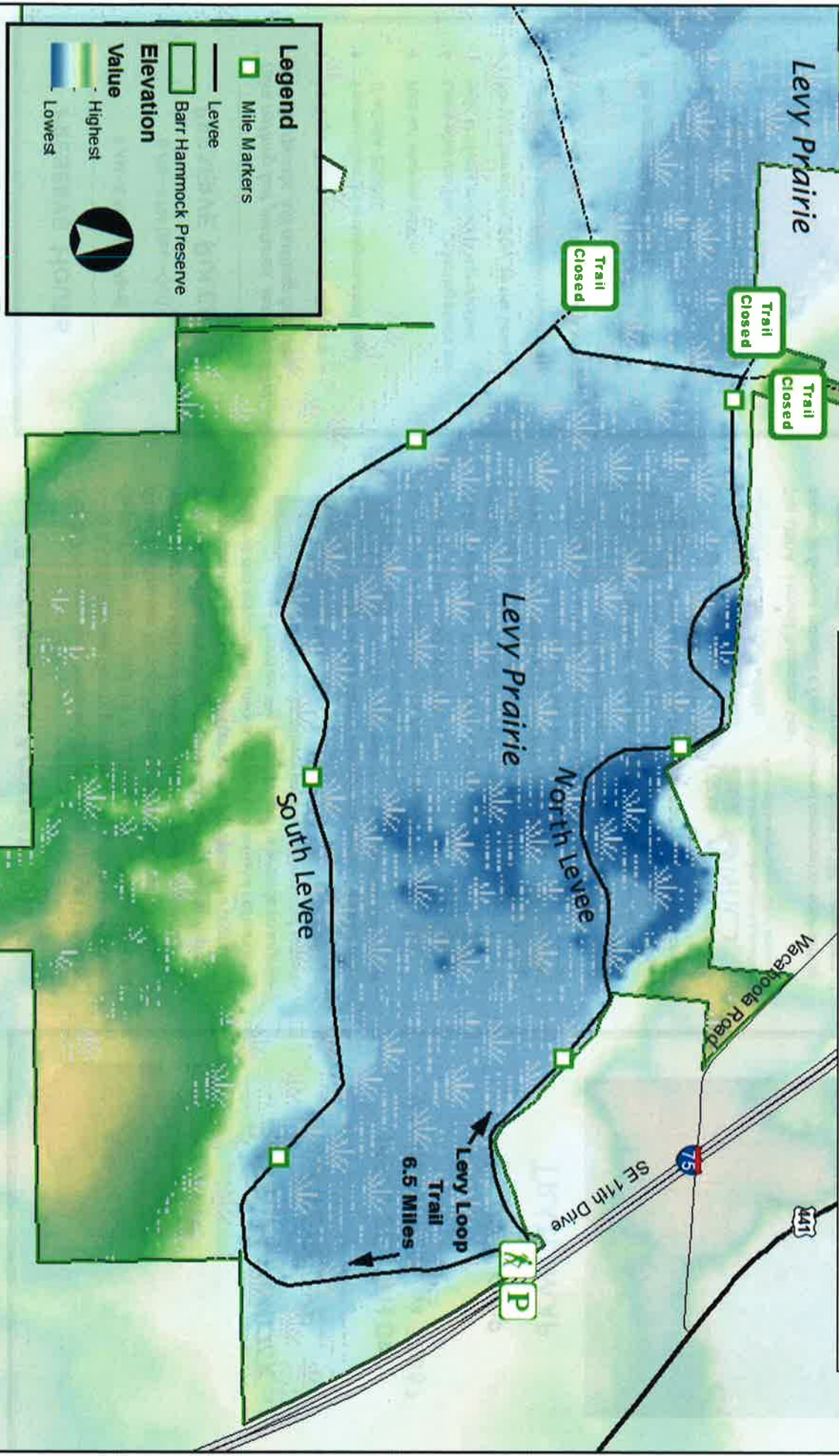
14920 SE 11TH DR.
MICANOPY, FLORIDA 32667

LEVY LOOP TRAIL MAP





Levy Loop (6.5 miles) - The trail circles restored marsh. Walking the entire loop takes 3.5 to 4 hours at a leisurely pace. A leisurely bike ride takes about 2 hours. Under wet conditions the trail surface can be muddy and uneven. The **South Levee Trail** provides views of marsh and forest. It is partially shaded for most of its length. The **North Levee Trail** has neighboring homes for the first mile. Please be quiet and respect their privacy. The north side offers views of marsh and has no shade.



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."

- ◆ **Be a good neighbor to our neighbors:**
 - ◆ Respect Private Property.
 - ◆ Park in the designated parking area.
 - ◆ Stay off private roads.
- ◆ Pack out what you pack in.
- ◆ Collecting plants, animals, artifacts or fossils is prohibited.
- ◆ Leash and clean up after dogs.
- ◆ Feeding alligators is dangerous and illegal (FAC 68A-25.001).
- ◆ Help prevent erosion by staying on trails.
- ◆ No motorized vehicles except ADA equipment.
- ◆ Cyclists must walk bikes over bridges and boardwalks.
- ◆ Visitors who remain after hours are trespassing.
- ◆ Keep out of Closed Areas: they are closed for your safety.
- ◆ Equestrians—Proof of negative Coggins test required to enter the Preserve (FAC SC-18). Proof subject to inspection.

SHARING THE TRAILS



- ◆ Follow yielding rules to minimize conflicts.
- ◆ Cyclists yield to horses and hikers. Hikers yield to horses.
- ◆ Pedestrians may use any marked or unmarked trail except those in Closed Areas.
- ◆ Cyclists and Equestrian users must use designated trails.
- 
 - ◆ A horse's natural instinct is to be frightened of predators.
 - ◆ Sudden movements and noises frighten horses.
- ◆ Announce yourself with a calm voice when approaching others.
- ◆ A horse can kick its entire body length behind it.
- 
 - ◆ Pass carefully and courteously; dismount your bike and move to the side to allow horses to pass.
- ◆ Maintain a safe speed.

PARTNERS IN ACQUISITION

The 5,840-acre Barr Hammock Preserve was bought between 2006 & 2016. Alachua County provided funding from the Alachua County Forever Bond, and the Wild Spaces Public Places sales taxes. Other funding was through Florida Communities Trust grants, North American Wetland Conservation Act grants, a donation from the Whitehurst family, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The preserve was purchased to protect, preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources found on the property, to protect water resources, and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience.



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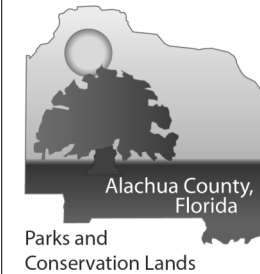
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www.conserveflorida.org

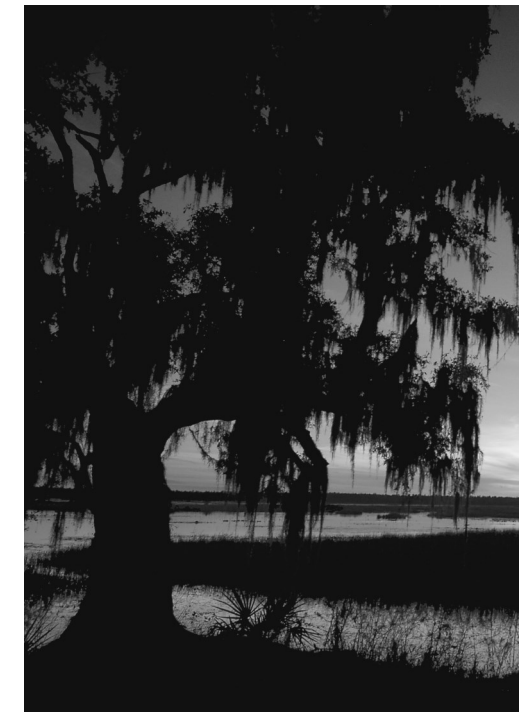
ALACHUA COUNTY
Parks and Conservation Lands
408 W. University Avenue, Suite 106, Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: 352-264-6800
E-mail: landconservation@alachuacounty.us



BARR HAMMOCK PRESERVE

300 SE 175TH AVE
MICANOPY, FLORIDA 32667

SOUTH TRAIL MAP



ADVICE FOR THE TRAILS

- ◆ Natural areas and wildlife may be hazardous. Use common sense and be cautious.
- ◆ Be prepared for soft, uneven terrain - some trails are maintained as firebreaks.
- ◆ In an emergency call 911. To report an issue call 352-264-6800.
- ◆ Do not approach alligators, snakes or wild hogs.
- ◆ For your comfort and safety, wear sunscreen and a hat, use insect repellent, carry water and a trail map.
- ◆ Under wet weather some trails are flooded.

Hammock Trail - Shared Trail. Round trip from the trailhead is ~ 9 miles via cycling route and ~ 8 miles via horse route. The orange shortcut removes about one mile from either trip. These distances include traveling portions of the blue and yellow trail to access the orange trail. This is a mostly shady trail sheltered by large old trees with wet hammock in the western portions. Under wet conditions, the western back roads are under water or muddy and only Main Road will be accessible. Mosquitoes may be abundant and cellular signal is weak.

Still Branch Crossing - North route for cyclists, south route for equestrians. Only pedestrians have a loop: Round trip from the trailhead via the outer loop is 4.4 miles. The shortcut removes 0.9 miles from the trip. Bikes and horses use this trail to reach Hammock Loop. The cyclist trail includes a bridged crossing of Still Branch Creek. The equestrian trail crosses the creek where swamp turns to creek. Both are partially shaded with variable surface.

Bayhead Trail- Cyclist Trail. Round trip from trailhead via the outer loop is 2.8 miles, the shortcut removes 0.8 miles from the trip. The route passes through sandhills and hardwood forest with views of Still Branch Creek. The route has sunny and shady areas, with sandy sections (between intersections 5 and 10).

Piney Woods Loop - Equestrian Trail. Round trip length: 4.8 miles. This trail traverses pinelands and oak forests. The route is sandy and partially shaded.



Closed
Hunted Area

Closed Area


South Trailhead

SE 175th Avenue


Legend



Trailhead




Bridge




Overlook


Intersection Number




Streams




Unmarked Roads & Firebreaks




Barr Hammock Preserve



Lake/Pond




Swamp/Marsh



Elevation

Value







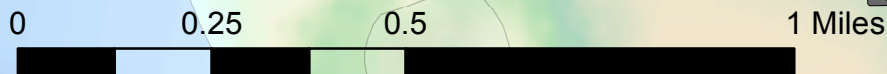
High : 141.958

Low : 56.001

Finding The Way

Trails are marked with colored blazes. The symbol used designates the user group for each trail. A white halo around the symbol indicates a shortcut. Look for blazes at intersections. Intersections have numbered sign posts labeled on the map.

-  All Users (remember yielding rules)
-  Equestrian and Pedestrian
-  Cyclist and Pedestrian
-  Pedestrian only



Preserve Rules

"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 narrow (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



Trail Guide - All trails are flat, crossing pinelands and swamp habitat. Trails may flood during wet weather. Trails may be rough, uneven and wet, with areas of soft sand or mud.

1471

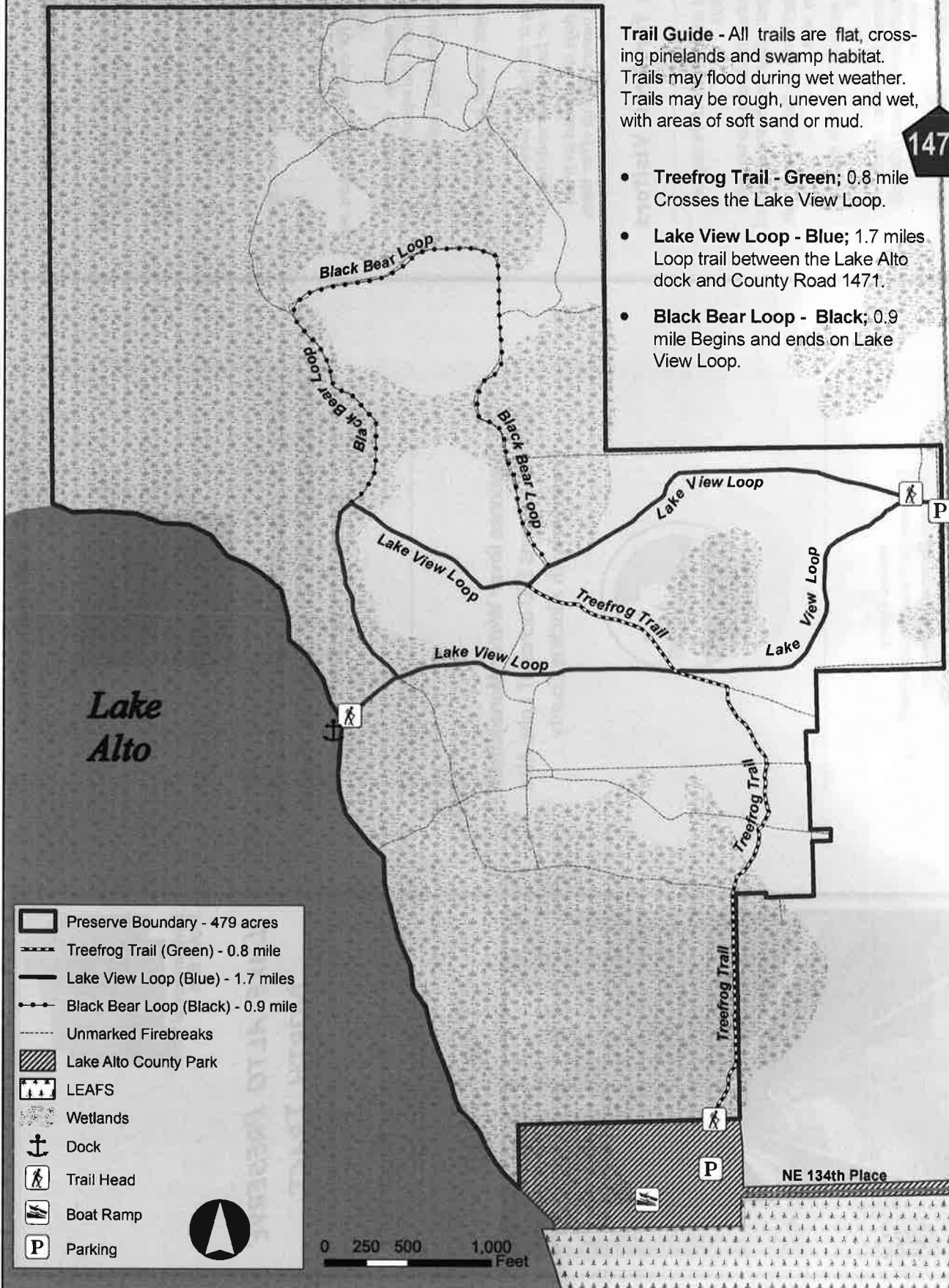
- **Treefrog Trail - Green;** 0.8 mile
Crosses the Lake View Loop.
- **Lake View Loop - Blue;** 1.7 miles
Loop trail between the Lake Alto dock and County Road 1471.
- **Black Bear Loop - Black;** 0.9 mile
Begins and ends on Lake View Loop.

- Preserve Boundary - 479 acres
- Treefrog Trail (Green) - 0.8 mile
- Lake View Loop (Blue) - 1.7 miles
- Black Bear Loop (Black) - 0.9 mile
- Unmarked Firebreaks
- Lake Alto County Park
- LEAFS
- Wetlands
- Dock
- Trail Head
- Boat Ramp
- Parking



0 250 500 1,000 Feet

NE 134th Place



Preserve Rules

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- ◆ 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



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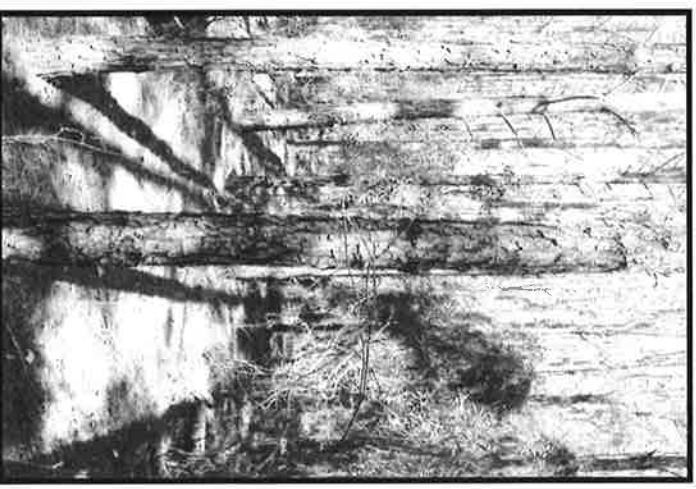
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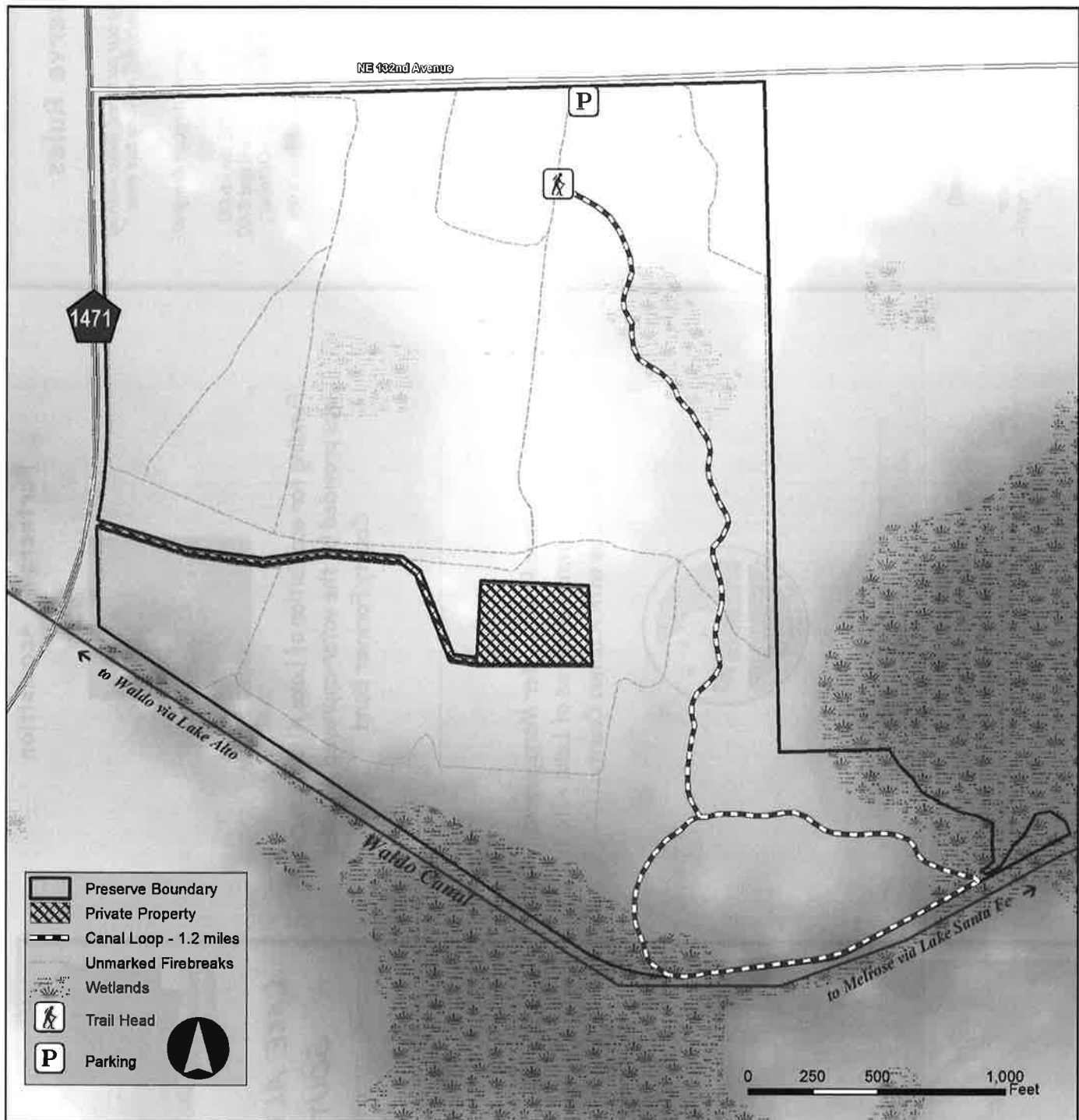
LAKE ALTO PRESERVE SOUTH TRACT

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.



ALACHUA COUNTY

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

Phone: 352-264-6800

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MILL CREEK PRESERVE

14505 NW COUNTY RD. 236,
ALACHUA, FL 32615

TRAIL MAP



Mill Creek Preserve

236

P i

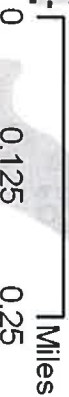
Marsh Trail – Rating: Easy. This 0.6 mile trail features views of pine plantation that will be restored to pine flatwoods and a seasonally flooded grassy marsh. Allow 30 minutes for a relaxed walk.

Shortcut Trail – Utilizing the shortcut trail removes one half mile from West Trail/Hammock Trail, and still allows the walker to experience many of the same natural communities.

Old Providence Trail – Rating: Easy to Moderate. Along this 1.4 mile trail you walk along a portion of Old Providence Road/Fort Call Road, an historic road that early residents of the county used. You will see Townsend Branch Creek, pinelands, swamps and hardwood forests with American beech trees. The trail narrows to a single track as you approach the creek. Allow 1 hour at a relaxed pace.

West Trail/Hammock Trail – Rating: Moderate. This 3.0 mile trail takes the walker through many of the preserve habitats, including pineland, and hammock. The Hammock portion of the trail crosses tributaries of Townsend Branch and in this section you can see American beech trees and many other species. Allow several hours.

Unmarked Service Roads and Firebreaks—You are welcome to walk on service roads and firebreaks. Please note: roads and firebreaks have no directional signs.



Key to Features

P i

Trail Head



American Beech



Wildlife Observation

Marked Trails



Marsh Trail



Hammock Trail



Shortcut



Old Providence Trail



West Trail



Unmarked Roads & Firebreaks



Seasonally Flooded Wetlands

Mill Creek Preserve

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 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 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



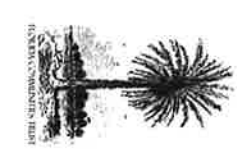
made possible by the dedication and quick action of Alachua Conservation Trust and its many friends and supporters. In 2005 the land was put up for auction and nearly purchased by a Louisiana developer. Aware of the critical timing in the pending sale, ACT quickly rallied the support of the local community, 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



is a \$29 million dollar, citizen approved bond initiative to acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands that is housed within the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department.

Florida Communities Trust



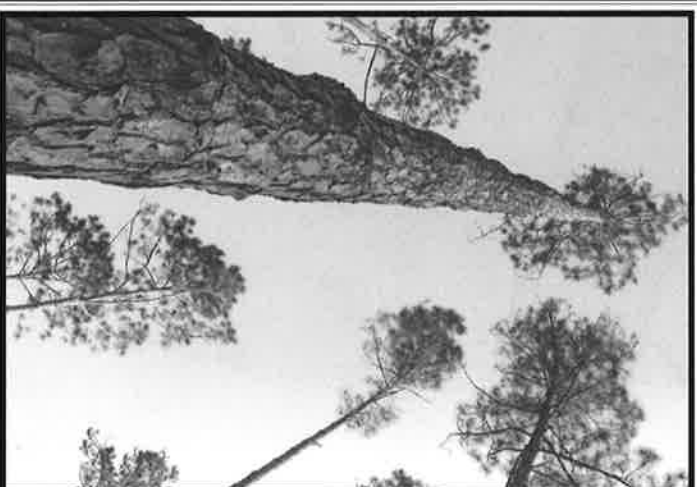
is a state land acquisition grant program that provides funding to local governments and eligible non-profit environmental organizations for acquisition of community-based parks, open space and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government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



Phifer Flatwoods Preserve

12243 SE County Road 2082
Hawthorne, Florida

Trail Map



Slash pines (*Pinus elliotii*)

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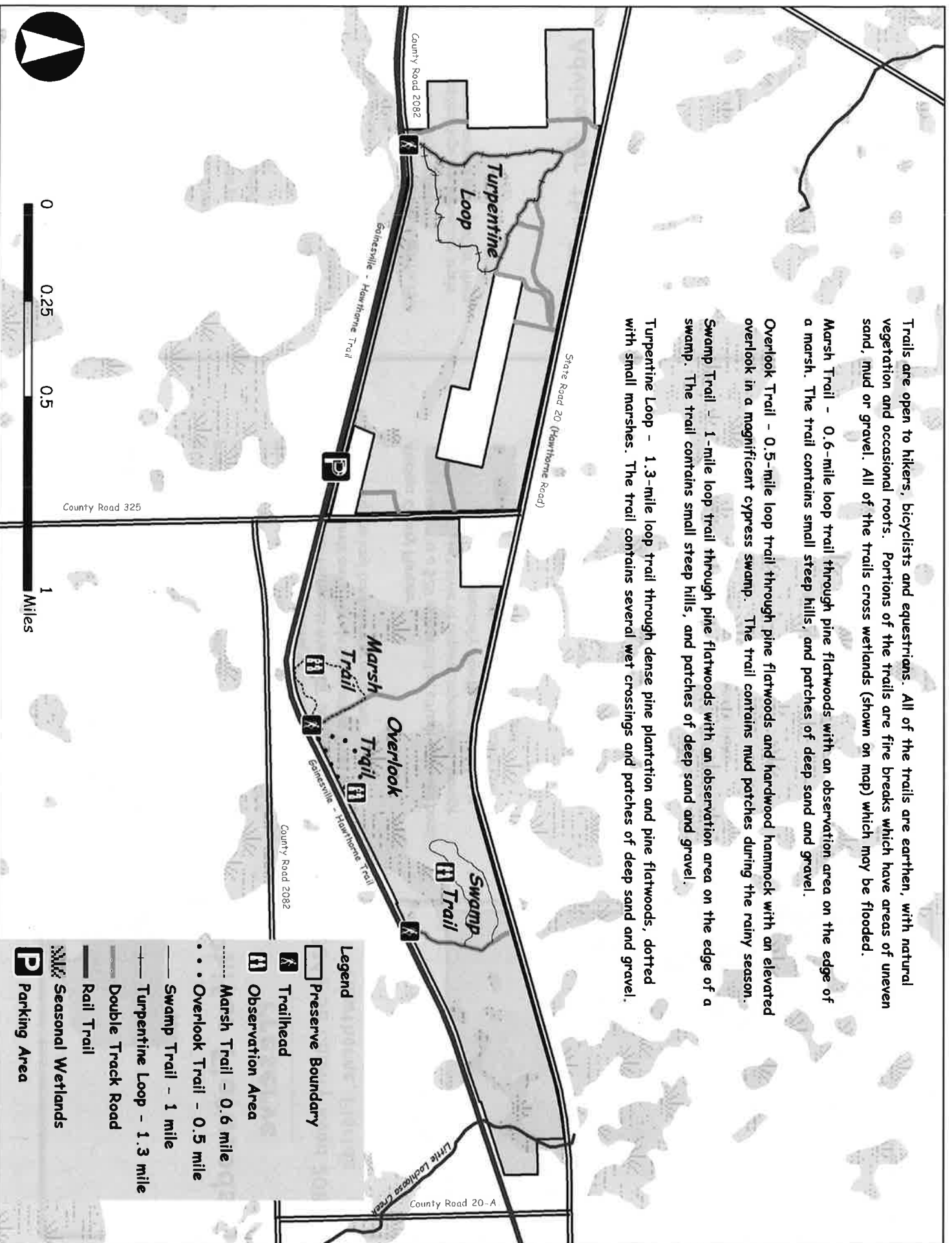
Trails are open to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. All of the trails are earthen, with natural vegetation and occasional roots. Portions of the trails are fire breaks which have areas of uneven sand, mud or gravel. All of the trails cross wetlands (shown on map) which may be flooded.

Marsh Trail - 0.6-mile loop trail through pine flatwoods with an observation area on the edge of a marsh. The trail contains small steep hills, and patches of deep sand and gravel.

Overlook Trail - 0.5-mile loop trail through pine flatwoods and hardwood hammock with an elevated overlook in a magnificent cypress swamp. The trail contains mud patches during the rainy season.

Swamp Trail - 1-mile loop trail through pine flatwoods with an observation area on the edge of a swamp. The trail contains small steep hills, and patches of deep sand and gravel.

Turpentine Loop - 1.3-mile loop trail through dense pine plantation and pine flatwoods, dotted with small marshes. The trail contains several wet crossings and patches of deep sand and gravel.



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 & 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

- ◆ Natural areas & wildlife may be hazardous to your health. Stay alert, stay on the established trails, and stay safe.
- ◆ 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 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, *Boldina angustifolia*

Legend

-  2-Track Road
-  Trailhead
-  Overlook
-  West Trail (1.75 miles)
-  Trail Intersections
-  East Trail (1.2 miles)
-  Bridge
-  Seasonal Wetlands
-  Preserve Boundary

West Trail - Rating: Easy. This series of loop trails meander 1.75 miles along Sweetwater Branch and through upland mixed and floodplain forests. Much of this area was pasture many years ago and the native species you see have naturally recruited into the area.

East Trail - Rating: Moderate. In a short 1.2 mile walk you will see 8 different natural communities including: sandhill, xeric hammock, sinkhole lake, baygall, seepage stream, upland mixed forest, mesic flatwoods and floodplain forest.

Intersections on the West Trail have been numbered to help orient visitors to the trail.

