

Preserve Rules

“Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time.”

- ◆ Trails are open from 7 am to 6 pm October - March, 7 am to 8 pm April - September, 365 days a year. Visitors on the preserve outside these hours are trespassing.
- ◆ Pack out what you pack in.
- ◆ Trails are for pedestrian, bicyclist, and equestrian use only. Cyclists must yield to hikers and equestrians. Hikers must yield to equestrians. Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- ◆ Preserve visitors may not establish new trails without permission from Alachua County EPD.
- ◆ Help prevent erosion by staying on the trails.
- ◆ Collecting or disturbing plants, animals, artifacts, or fossils is prohibited.
- ◆ No taking, harassing, or killing of wildlife without written permission from Alachua County EPD.
- ◆ Leashed dogs are allowed on trails provided owners pick up after them.

Advice for the Trails

- ◆ Natural areas & wildlife may be hazardous. 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.

If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to participate in a County program, service or public meeting, please contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 352-374-5275 at least 2 business days prior to the event. TDD users, please call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

About the Preserve

The 69-acre Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve was purchased in 2021 by the State of Florida through the Florida Forever Program. Alachua County entered into a long term management lease with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection after the purchase of the property.



Alachua County Forever is the County's Land Conservation Program that acquires, improves & manages environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource based recreation.

**Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department
Land Conservation and Management Program
915 SE 5th St., Gainesville, FL 32601**

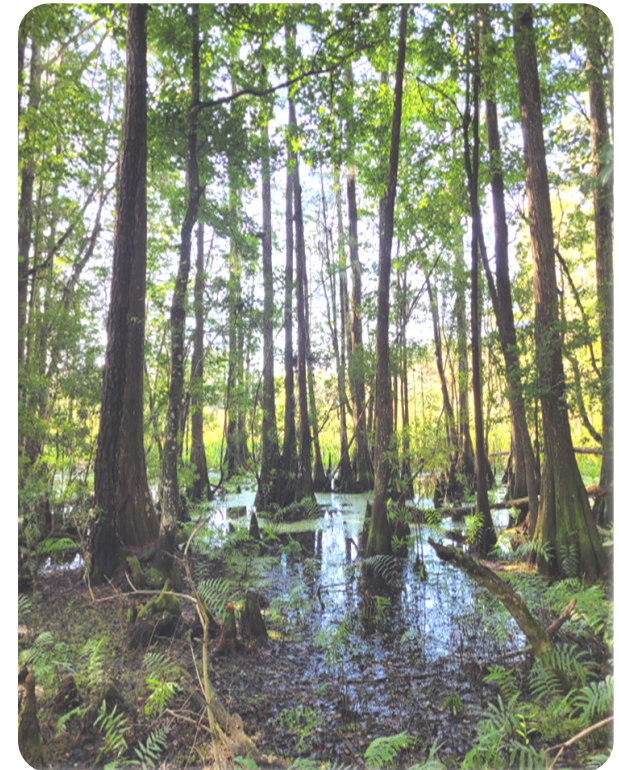
**Phone: 352-264-6868
E-mail: landconservation@alachuacounty.us
Web: www.AlachuaCountyForever.us**



Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve

Trail Map

**20201 NE 132nd Ave.,
Waldo, FL**



Preserve Hours:

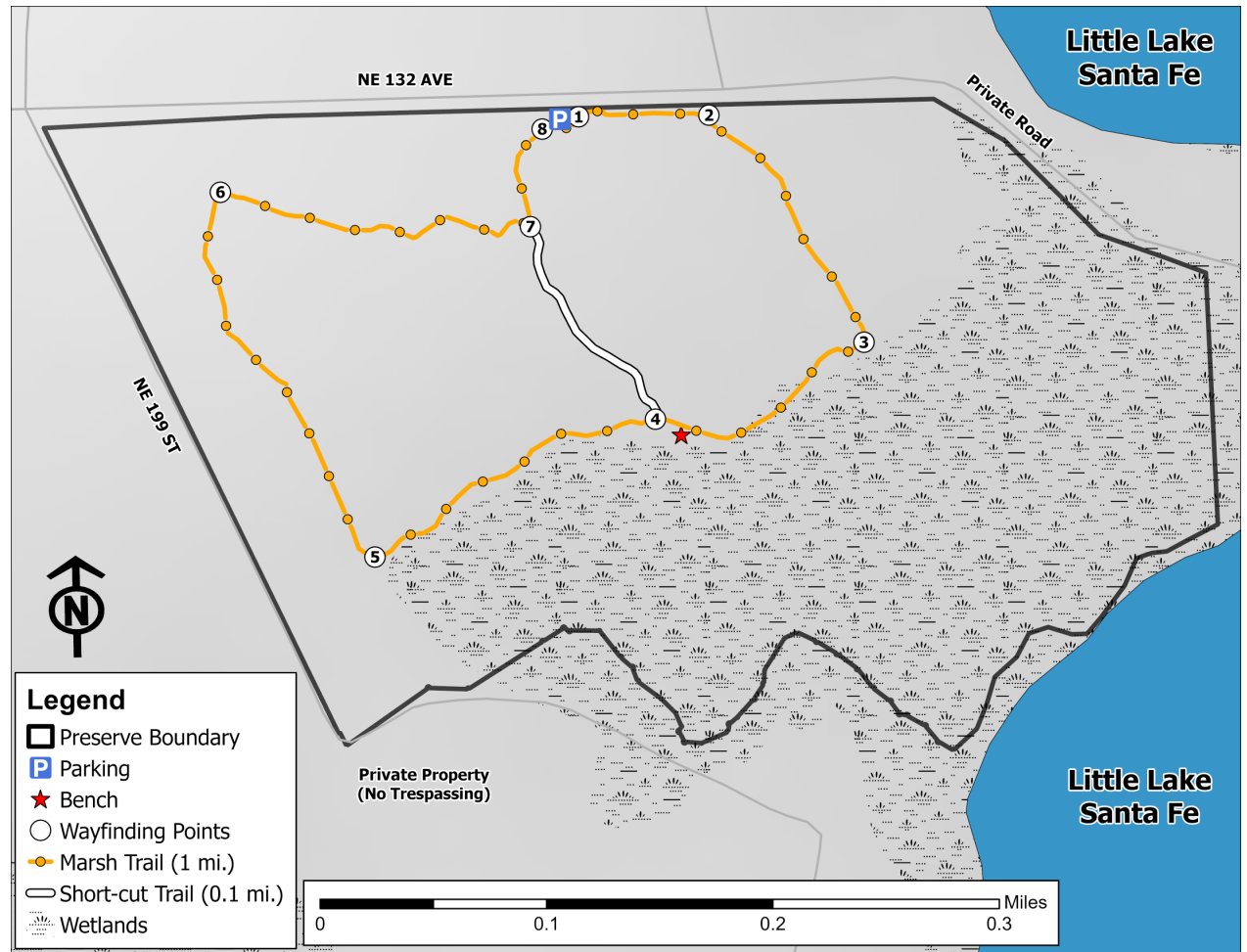
**Oct. - March 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
April - Sept. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

History & Natural Resources

Located on the shore of Little Lake Santa Fe, this preserve is part of the headwaters of the Santa Fe River. The Santa Fe River System, including all of Lake Santa Fe, is designated as an Outstanding Florida Waterway due to its exceptional recreational and ecological significance. Approximately 23 acres of the Preserve's wetlands are included in the Outstanding Florida Waterway area, protecting over 800 feet of lake frontage. The shoreline of Little Lake Santa Fe supports nesting wading birds, aquatic wildlife, swamps, and wetlands. Conserving this land helps to protect local wildlife and water quality in the Santa Fe River watershed, and in the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Acquisition of Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve would not have been possible without the dedication of Jill McGuire, Alison Blakeslee, and the entire Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association. Seeing the value and urgency in conserving what undeveloped land was left around the lake, their grassroots efforts to lobby the State to add the Lake Santa Fe project area to the Florida Forever Priority List in the early 2000s directly led to the eventual purchase of this preserve.

Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve contains a 14-acre basin marsh and 14-acre basin swamp, both in excellent condition. These natural communities play an important role filtering pollutants and excess nutrients before they enter the lake. Visitors can enjoy strolling beneath majestic cypress trees on the marsh frontage. Listen for frog choruses, catch a glimpse of ospreys and the occasional bald eagle soaring overhead, while keeping an eye out for alligators, turtles and other reptiles basking near the water's edge.



Trail Description

- The Marsh Trail is an easy 1 mile trail blazed orange. It takes visitors through the uplands of the preserve and along the marsh ecotones.
- The Short-Cut Trail, blazed white, is an easy 0.1 mile connector trail that offers a shorter route by splitting the Marsh Trail in half.
- Trails are a mixture of sand, dirt, and wet soils. They can be uneven with small holes and roots. They have a slight, descending grade going towards Little Lake Santa Fe.

