



# Saving My Alachua 2025



"Beauty Will Save Alachua County"  
Sina Etemadi, High School  
Eastside High School





**CONNECTING WITH NATURE - WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?** Nature Deficit Disorder, defined as 'Decreasing connectedness with nature among children and adults,' has increased dramatically in industrialized nations. With the growing level of digitization, our kids are spending most of their time indoors. In fact, a recent study found that American children spend 5-8 hours per day on their phone or computer compared to 4-7 minutes per day in outside play! This nature deficit is leaving our children without a connection to our planet and the precious natural resources that need our protection. Keep reading for ideas about how you can help take better care of the planet and re-connect with nature.

### Protect Habitat & Wildlife



- Minimize or eliminate the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides in your yard.
- Make your yard wildlife friendly. Plant a pollinator garden and use native shrubs and trees to increase wildlife habitat.
- Minimize light pollution at night by turning off outdoor lights or using motion sensors, timers, or dimmers, and opting for warm-colored lights outdoors.



### Reduce Personal Pollution

- Be energy aware. Turn off lights and electronics when not in use.
- Consolidate driving trips and walk or ride your bike whenever possible.
- Keep grass clippings and landscaping debris out of the streets.
- Do not litter. Secure items or trash from flying out of moving vehicles.
- Clean up after your pet. Scoop it! Bag it! Trash it!
- Purchase goods that are created with minimal packaging, transportation footprint, and impact on the environment.
- Report illegal dumping to 352-264-6800.
- Take household hazardous waste to your local HazWaste Collection Center.



### Conserve Water

- Save water outdoors by turning off automatic irrigation systems and run manually only when plants show signs of stress.
- Check your system regularly, promptly repair leaks, and remember the Alachua County irrigation restrictions are the maximum you can water.
- Hand watering with a garden hose is a great way to target only those plants that are actually thirsty.



"Majestic Deer at Sunset"

Julia Zona  
8th Grade  
Oak Hall School



"Keep the Alachua Gar Yummy!"

Minna Porges  
Kindergarten  
Expressions Learning Arts Academy



"Beautiful Nature Near the City of Gainesville Clock Tower"

James Du  
5th Grade  
Lawton Chiles Elementary



## Hazardous Waste Center

Hazardous Waste poses a threat to environmental health and human safety if not properly disposed.

### What type of hazardous waste is accepted?

- Aerosol containers
- Automotive chemicals and filters
- Batteries (all types)
- Emergency flares
- E-scrap
- Flammable liquids and solids
- Fluorescent lamps and CFLs
- Household cleaners
- Lawn chemicals
- Paint products
- Pharmaceuticals
- Pool chemicals
- Propane tanks
- Sharps (syringes, needles, and lancets)
- Stale gas and diesel fuel
- Thermostats and thermometers
- Used cooking oil

## Alachua County's Rural Collection Centers (RCCs)

Help us keep our beautiful Alachua County clean and free of trash and dumping! The five Rural Collection Centers are rural, regional facilities for the collection of recyclables, solid waste, yard trash, bulk items, and household hazardous waste. These facilities are for residential use only (commercial waste is prohibited).

### What can I drop off at the RCC?

**Recycling** - Flattened, dry cardboard, paper, and paste board (cereal boxes), and commingled containers such as plastic bottles/jars, plastic yogurt/margarine tubs, aluminum, steel and tin containers, glass bottles/jars.

**Garbage** - Please place trash bags in available compactor or in dumpster if directed.

**Yard Waste** - Leaves, grass clippings, brush and small tree limbs. Remove yard waste from plastic bags before recycling and **do not include** boards, lumber, rocks, fencing, pallets, toys, or furniture.

**Bulk Metals Recycling** - Washers and dryers, stoves, grills, filing cabinets, metal exercise machines, metal patio furniture, metal roofing, bicycles, lawn mowers and other gas-powered equipment (must be empty of gas and oil).

**Household Hazardous Waste** - Oil filters, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries, vehicle/boat batteries, computer equipment, electronics, and up to five gallons of waste oil and old paint per day are accepted.

"Snakes Need Saving, Too!"



Anabelle Boyette, 6th Grade  
First Christian Academy

"Happy Horse Near the Lake"



Izzy Burde, 6th Grade  
Oak Hall School

"Birds of a Feather Fly Together"



Cecilia Duda, High School  
Eastside High School

### Main Location:

5125 NE 63rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32609  
Phone: 352-334-0440  
Mon. - Fri., 7 AM - 5 PM, Sat. 8 AM - 12 PM  
Closed: Sundays and holidays

### Rural Collection Centers:

Mon., Tue., Fri. & Sat., 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
Closed: Sundays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

### Archer Rural Collection Center:

19401 SW Archer Road  
Phone: (352) 495-3257

### Alachua/High Springs Rural Collection Center:

16929 SW US Highway 441  
Phone: (386) 454-2563

### Fairbanks Rural Collection Center:

9920 NE Waldo Road  
Phone: (352) 334-3873

### North Central Rural Collection Center:

10714 N SR 121  
Phone: (352) 334-3875

### Phifer Rural Collection Center:

11700 SE Hawthorne Road  
Phone: (352) 334-3874



"Spotted Sunfish in the Suwannee" • Darby Amalia Brunson • 7th Grade • Sunflower Homeschool

'Controlled Burn'



Hannah Jones, High School  
Cornerstone Academy

Due to the high number of lightning strikes we receive in Florida, fire has been a natural component of the landscape for thousands of years. Many plants and animals depend on periodic fires for survival. Today, land managers use prescribed burns to attain fire's many benefits, including:

- Reducing fuel buildup to mitigate the risk of dangerous wildfires
- Returning nutrients to the soil
- Minimizing overcrowding of vegetation
- Letting more light hit the forest floor, allowing many important species to grow

Florida has one of the most active prescribed fire programs in the country. Prescribed fire is a complex management tool, but it remains one of the most versatile and cost-effective methods to manage and improve our natural resources.

This calendar recognizes environmental events and dates of holidays established by law. For a multicultural calendar, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/bdszsdct>

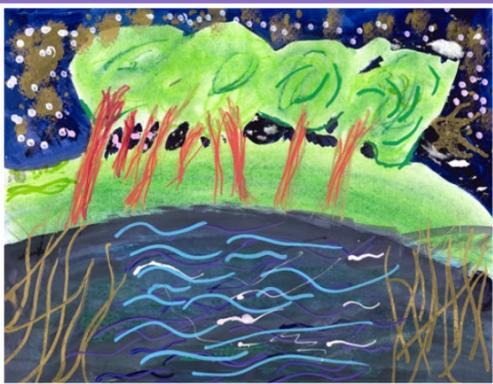
# January 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			New Year's Day			
National Bird Day						
					Florida Arbor Day	
	MLK Holiday					



'Evening on the Prairie' • Aubrey Cash • 4th Grade • Micanopy Area Cooperative School

'Deep Lake'



Scarlett Dawson, 4th Grade  
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School

If you live in Alachua County, chances are you live near a wetland or body of water. Wetlands are areas where water covers or saturates the land long enough to support plants and animals adapted to life in wet conditions. Our county has many different wetlands, including swamps, marshes, and prairies. Approximately 18% of the County is covered in wetlands, while 10% contains other water bodies such as creeks and lakes. Many of our nature parks provide access to wetlands and water bodies, such as Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Four Creeks Preserve, and Hogtown Headwaters Park. Visit [GainesvilleCreeks.org](http://GainesvilleCreeks.org) to learn more about your watershed and local places to explore!

# February 2025

S M T W T F S



Many plants go dormant in the winter and don't need irrigation or fertilizer. Fertilizer application is banned July - Feb.

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World Wetlands Day 	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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	23	24	25	26	27	28	



"The Wrong Habitat for the Red Fox" • Jacomo Ayala-Vermont • 5th Grade • Expressions Learning Arts Academy

"The Lake Wauburg Story"



Liya Tang, 2nd Grade  
Expressions Learning Arts Academy

In Alachua County, there are many paved surfaces that prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground. Instead, rainwater flows across the land and picks up any pollution in its path before entering nearby storm drains. Most storm drains in Alachua County have no filter; they lead directly into our creeks and lakes! Everyone can play a role protecting our local waterways by preventing pollution on land. Here are some simple actions you can take to reduce pollution:

- Eliminate fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide use in your yard
- Scoop, bag, and trash pet waste instead of leaving it on the ground
- Don't litter
- Keep grass clippings and yard debris out of the street
- Learn more at [AlachuaCountyWater.org](http://AlachuaCountyWater.org)

# March 2025



Help pollinators by joining the "No Mow March" movement and let it grow!



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2	World Wildlife Day	3	4	5	6	7	8				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
16	17	Global Recycling Day	18	19	World Frog Day	20	International Day of Forests	21	World Water Day	22	Earth Hour
23	24			Manatee Appreciation Day	26	27	28	29			
30	31	25									



"Manatees in the Suwannee River" • Shyla Olivia Brunson • 4th Grade • Sunflower Homeschool

"King of the Swamp"



Jacqueline Hoh, 6th Grade  
Oak Hall School

Our community enjoys a deep connection to over 1,000 freshwater springs throughout the state - the greatest concentration in the world! The water that flows from these springs comes from the aquifer beneath our feet, bringing life to vibrant habitats and diverse aquatic critters. This is the same water that flows from our faucets and provides drinking water to Alachua County residents. Each April, we celebrate Water Conservation Month and encourage residents to think about their own water use. Typical residential water use is around 150 gallons per day. If your water use is higher, consider the following:

- Eliminate or minimize outdoor irrigation
- Whenever possible, water by hand instead of using an irrigation system
- Repair leaks (both indoors and outdoors)
- Take showers in five minutes or less

Together, we can conserve our drinking water and protect Alachua County's aquatic ecosystems.

# April 2025



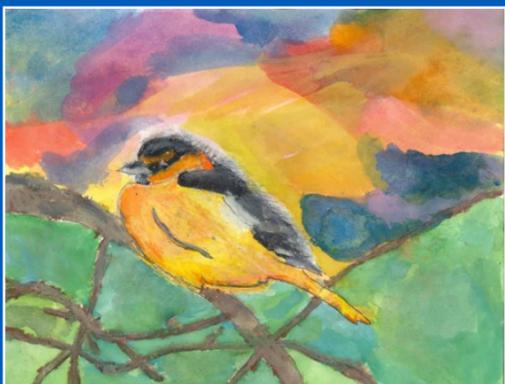
Irrigation restrictions are the maximum! See watering schedule below. To conserve water, turn your system off and only run it as needed.

		1		2	3 World Aquatic Animal Day 	4 	5												
6	7	8	9	10	11	12													
13	14	15	16	17 International Bat Appreciation Day 	18	19													
20 	21	22 Earth Day 	23	24	25 National Arbor Day 	26													
27 	28	29	30	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Summer 2nd Sun in Mar - 1st Sat in Nov</th> <th>Winter 1st Sun in Nov - 2nd Sat in Mar</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Odd House #</td> <td>Wed and/or Sat</td> <td>Saturday</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Even House #</td> <td>Thur and/or Sun</td> <td>Sunday</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other residential/ commercial</td> <td>Tue and/or Fri</td> <td>Tuesday</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Location	Summer 2nd Sun in Mar - 1st Sat in Nov	Winter 1st Sun in Nov - 2nd Sat in Mar	Odd House #	Wed and/or Sat	Saturday	Even House #	Thur and/or Sun	Sunday	Other residential/ commercial	Tue and/or Fri	Tuesday	
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"Otter Enjoying the Water" • Emma Clements • 8th Grade • Oak Hall School

"Endangered Bullock's Oriole Seen in Gainesville"



Juhani Johnson, 7th Grade  
Oak Hall School

Habitat loss is one of the greatest threats to endangered species, but why are some more at risk than others? Species like sandhill cranes rely on large home ranges or continuous expanses of suitable habitat along their migration routes. Others, like the Snail Kite (which feeds almost exclusively on apple snails), have very specific requirements for food or shelter.

One of the best strategies to protect endangered species is to protect their habitat – setting aside large areas of conservation land where they can thrive. Snail Kites and Sandhill Cranes can still be seen foraging in the protected wetlands of Alachua County.

You can help by advocating for land conservation. Also, try creating pockets of high-quality habitat in your yard by removing invasive plants and planting native trees and wildflowers.

# May 2025

S M T W T F S

Call before you clear!  
Contact EPD staff prior to clearing,  
under brushing, tree removal or  
other activities in natural areas.  
352-264-6800



					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	International Migratory Bird Day
Mother's Day  11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Endangered Species Day
18	19	World Bee Day  20	21	World Biodiversity Day  22	23	24	World Turtle Day  23
25	Memorial Day  26	27	28	29	30	31	



"Song to the City" • Malkolm Kotinsley • 3rd Grade • Micanopy Area Cooperative School

"Eastern Tailed Blue Butterfly and Coreopsis Flower"



Alliyah Trinos, 2nd Grade  
Healthy Learning Academy

As you spend time outdoors this summer, you may be lucky enough to spot some of the 200 species of butterflies and 300 species of bees that call our state home. These amazing creatures add beauty to our landscape while also pollinating our precious flowers and food crops. In June, we celebrate National Pollinator Week to honor the busy bees and butterflies that support our ecosystems and food supply.

You can help support our buzzing buddies by embracing wildflowers and weeds. Choose native plants, skip the pesticides, and let a few weeds pop up in your landscape this summer! Many common "weeds" are not harmful and have gotten a bad rap from lawn and chemical companies. On the contrary, many of these plants are native wildflowers that are beneficial to pollinators and people alike. Visit [MyYardOurWater.org](http://MyYardOurWater.org) to learn more about how you can help pollinators and "let it grow" in your yard this summer.

# June 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		☾		🌍 World Environment Day		🧑‍🌲 National Trails Day
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
🌊 World Oceans Day	8	9	10	11	12	13
👓 Father's Day	15	🐝 National Pollinator Week	16	17	18	19
🐝 Juneteenth	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30					



Embrace wildflowers and weeds to help pollinators!





"Not All Springs Are Made for Tubing" • Bligh Komanski • 1st Grade • The Rock School

"Keep Alachua Green When You Clean!"



Emelyn Firsching 4th Grade  
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School

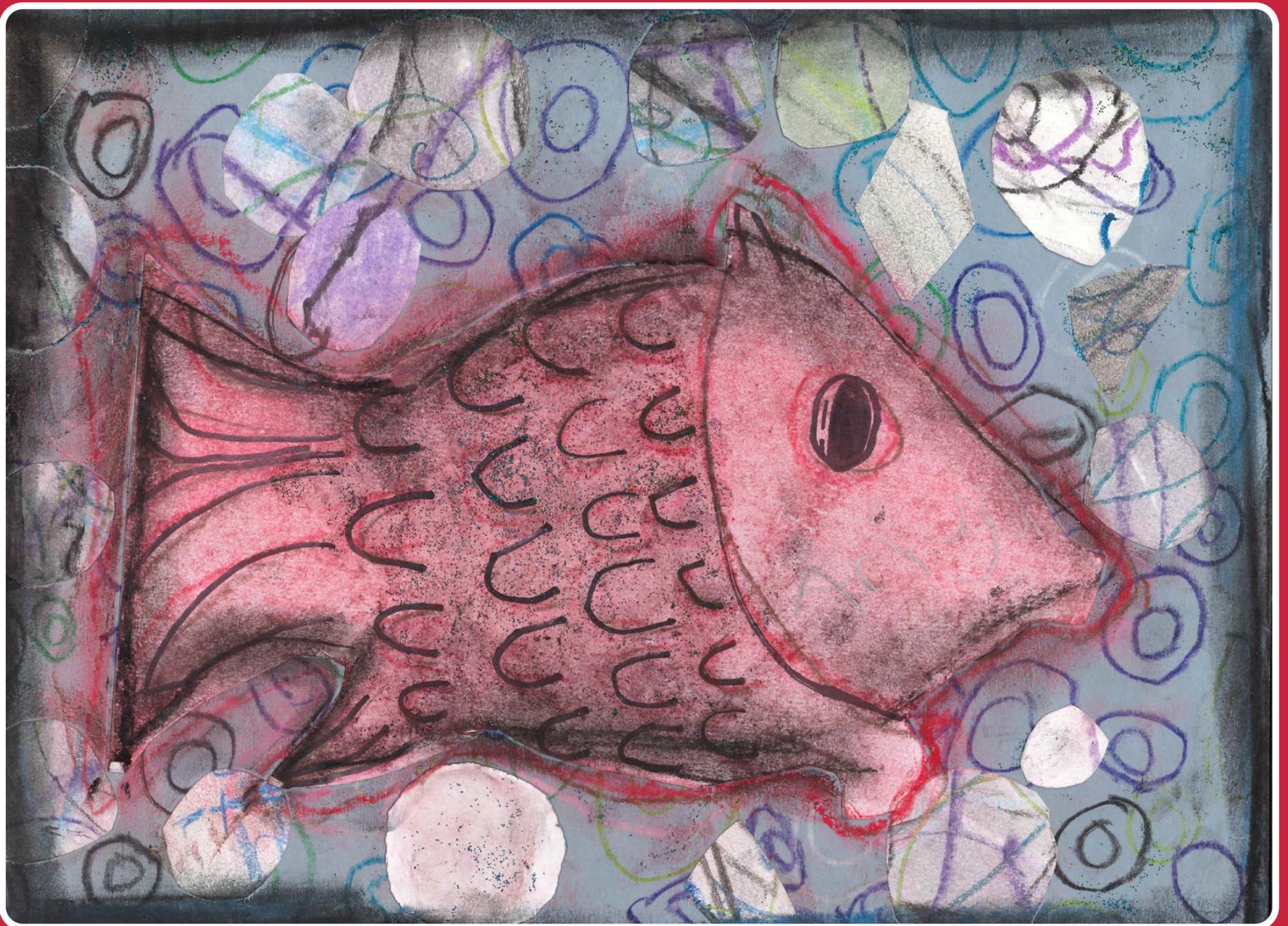
Many of us picture crystal clear blue water when we think of springs, but that image is missing a crucial component of the springs' ecosystem: aquatic plants! The relatively constant water temperature and chemistry of springs provides a unique habitat that allows aquatic plants to flourish. In fact, springs are home to many species of native aquatic plants that contribute to a healthy ecosystem. Fish, turtles, and manatees need these plants for food and habitat.

Unfortunately, aquatic plants may struggle to survive in our springs due to pollution and irresponsible recreation. In honor of World Nature Conservation Day, it is important to remember that we all play a part in protecting springs. "Feet up and float" to avoid walking on and damaging aquatic plants, and do your part to prevent pollution from impacting our springs. Being mindful of your effect on the natural world is a great start to protecting it!

# July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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26	27		28	29	30	31

When visiting the springs, avoid walking on underwater plants that the fish and turtles need to survive.



"Oh, No! Don't Let Anything Happen to Me!" • Ariya Sadat • Kindergarten • Expressions Learning Arts Academy

"Raccoon Thinking"



Emma Coombes, 6th Grade  
Oak Hall School

In Florida, many people enjoy fishing and hunting year-round. These outdoor activities give us a chance to connect with nature and learn more about wildlife and their habitats. To ensure everyone can enjoy these activities in the great outdoors for many generations to come, we need to reduce impacts to the environment and protect habitats. One of the principles you can practice is to "leave no trace." For example, do not throw trash in waterways or forested areas while you are out fishing or hunting.

Also, follow regulations set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regarding the season you can fish or hunt for certain species. FWC imposes limits on what you can catch or hunt and requires you to obtain a license for fishing and hunting. It's important to follow the FWC's rules to ensure that these animals will be around for future generations.

Visit FWC's website to learn more about their regulations: <https://myfwc.com/>

# August 2025



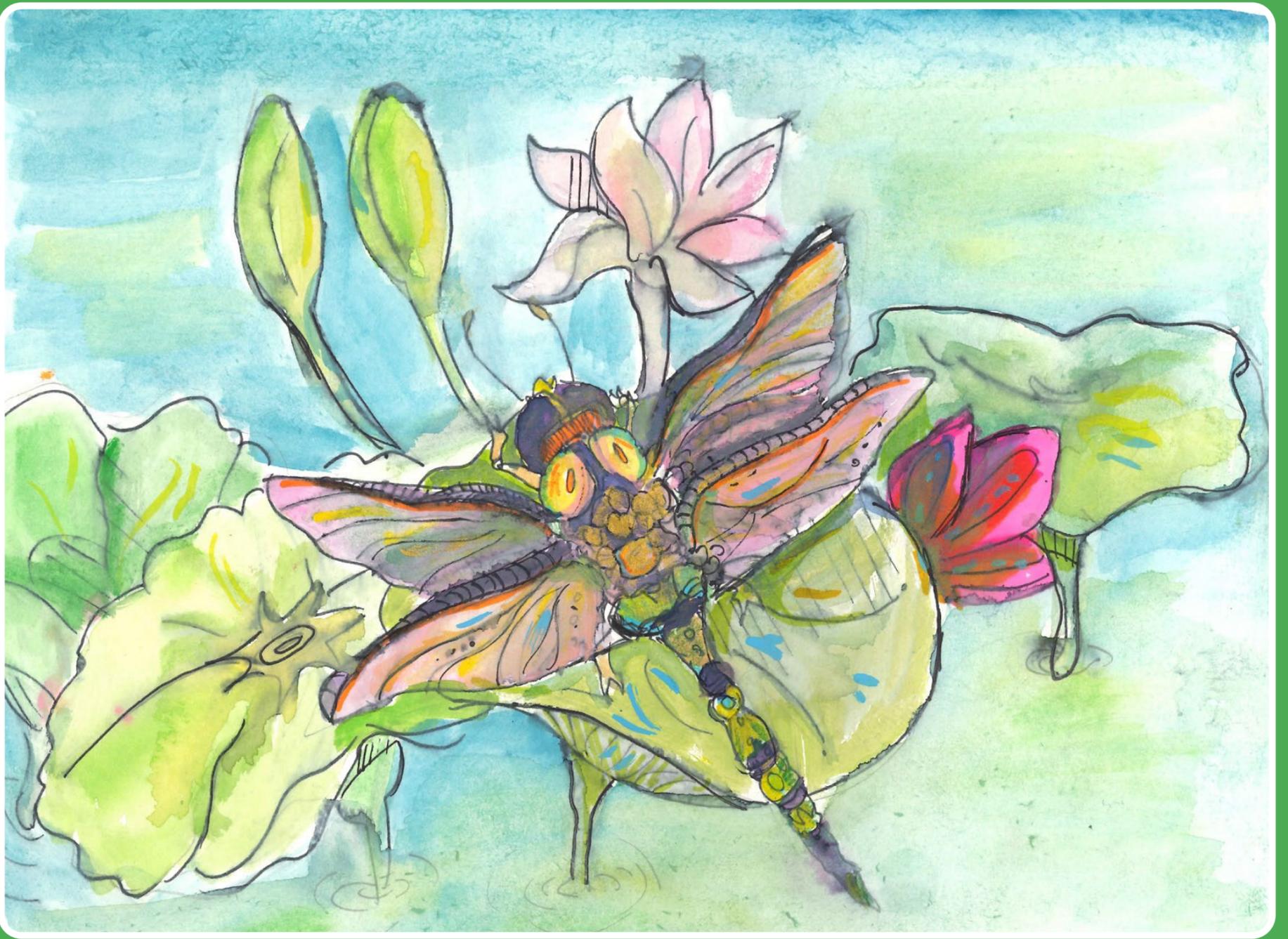
You can help us protect local waterways by reporting pollution. Call the Clean Creeks Hotline at 352-264-6800 to report pollution or dumping in our creeks, lakes, and wetlands.



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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



National Honey Bee Day



"Serene Springs" • Molly Furst • 8th Grade • Oak Hall School

"Sunrise at Newman's Lake"



Bridget Gullede, High School  
Eastside High School

The fourth weekend in September recognizes two special environmental awareness events: National Public Lands Day and World Rivers Day. While both events celebrate the connection between people and the natural environment and encourage responsible recreation, World Rivers Day shines greater focus on the need to care for our water resources.

The Santa Fe River, which originates in lakes and wetlands in the northeastern part of the county, is one of Alachua County's most unique natural resources. The river is dotted with 36 named springs and provides habitat for a diverse assemblage of wildlife, an abundance of recreational opportunities, and water resources for the surrounding community. The Santa Fe River Corridor is the highest ranked project area for the Alachua County Forever Program. This program strives to protect water resources, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation through land acquisition and management.

# September 2025

S	m	t	w	t	f	S
	Labor Day 1	2	3	National Wildlife Day 4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	
						National Public Lands Day 27
World Rivers Day 28	29	30	<p>Digging and sifting in local creeks causes erosion and increases the risk of flooding. These actions can also harm or disrupt wildlife. Protect our creeks by viewing them from designated trails.</p>			



"Nature's Reflection Through Us" • Jaden V. Alfonzo • High School • First Christian Academy

'Above the Moonlight Swamp'



Esme Lucke-Wold, 1st Grade  
Expressions Learning Arts Academy

One gallon of gasoline can contaminate up to a million gallons of groundwater. For a region that relies on groundwater for up to 95% of its drinking water, preventing pollution of groundwater resources from gas stations is vitally important.

Did you know that there are nearly 500 active or closed petroleum fuel facilities in Alachua County? There are currently 120 sites that require some type of environmental cleanup because of past petroleum discharges in Alachua County alone! The Environmental Protection Department's Petroleum Management staff supervise the remediation and restoration of these sites and inspect petroleum storage tank systems to make sure they are properly maintained.

Through educating local gas station owners on the importance of regular inspections, proper maintenance, and routine testing, we hope to stop leaks before they happen. When a leak or discharge does occur, prompt clean-up action before the petroleum reaches the groundwater is key to protecting our water resources.

# October 2025

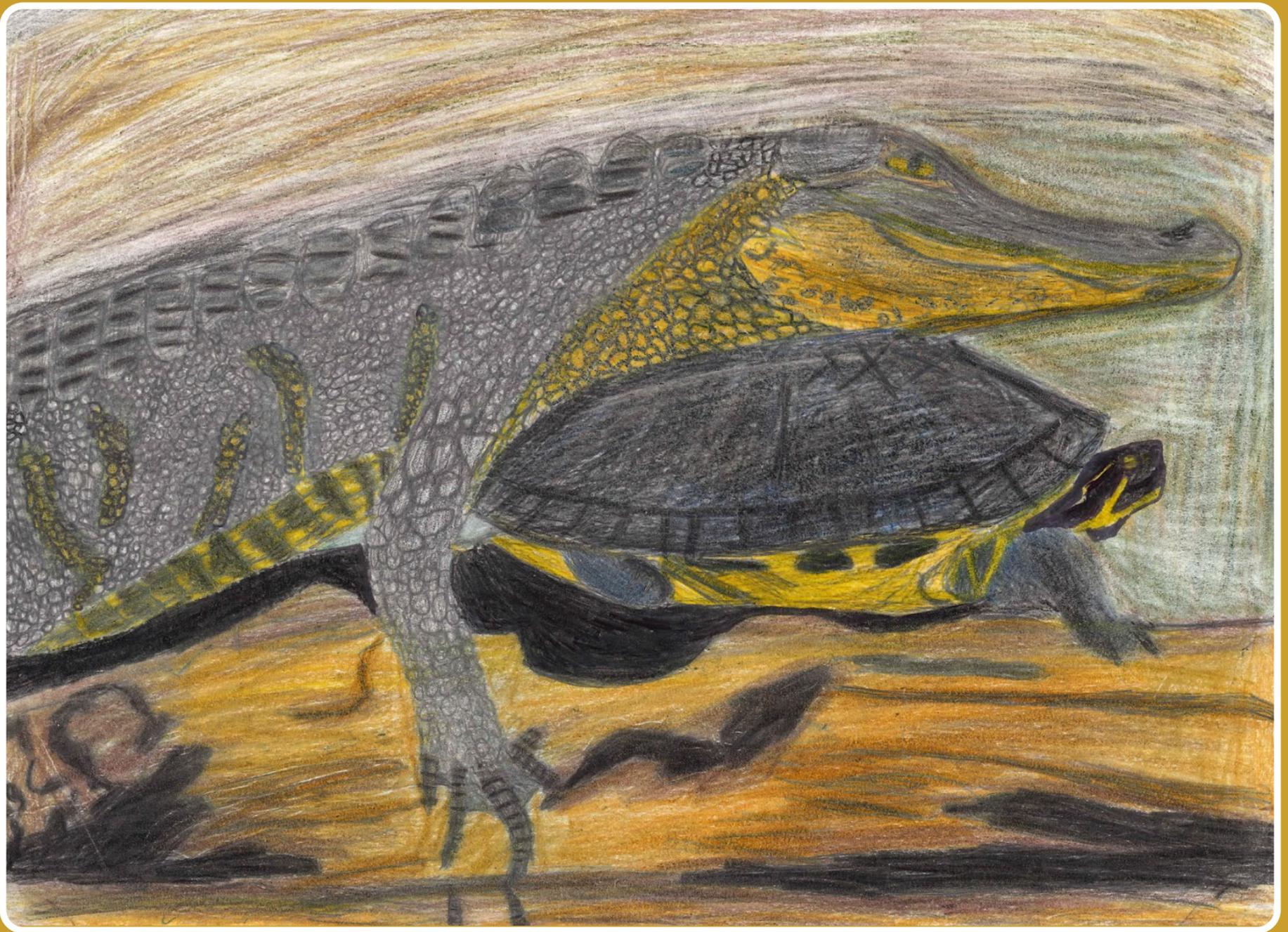
S M T W T F S



It's time to schedule your bi-annual irrigation system maintenance check! Remember, with the cooler months approaching, many plants go dormant and don't need irrigation or fertilizer.

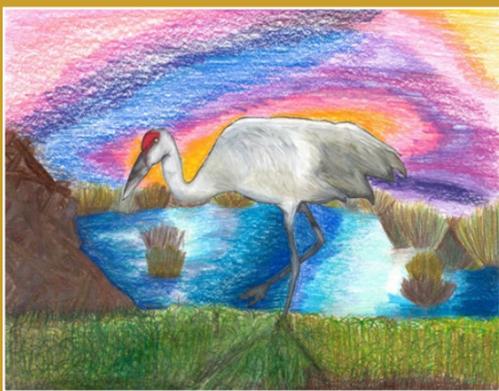


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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		



"Prey and Predators Coming Together" • Ansley Jett • 6th Grade • High Springs Community School

"Crane in the Wetlands"



Stella Butler, 7th Grade  
Oak Hall School

Winter in Alachua County can be a great time to take it slow. As temperatures begin to cool, appreciate the changes in the plants and animals around you. For example, you may notice your grass turning a little brown out in the yard. But worry not – your grass is simply taking a break to conserve nutrients and focus energy on building a healthy root system. Watering your grass during this time can do more harm than good by weakening its defense against disease. You can keep your yard healthy and save water by turning off the irrigation system this winter. Your yard and our water will thank you! Plus, less time in your yard means more time to explore one of our local nature preserves!



# November 2025



Irrigation is limited to one day a week – to save more water, turn off your system and only water as needed!

Location	Summer 2nd Sun in Mar - 1st Sat in Nov	Winter 1st Sun in Nov - 2nd Sat in Mar
Odd House #	Wed and/or Sat	Saturday
Even House #	Thur and/or Sun	Sunday
Other residential/ commercial	Tue and/or Fri	Tuesday

 Irrigation Restrictions Change	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	 Veterans Day	11	12	13	14	 America Recycles Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
30	24	25	26	 Thanksgiving Day	27	28	29



'Leveda Brown' • Wyatt Bremer • 2nd Grade • P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School

'Bison on the Prairie'



Ally Mitchell, 5th Grade  
Micanopy Area Cooperative School

A lot of us celebrate holidays in December, and we tend to generate more waste during this time of the year. Recycling is one way to reduce waste and shrink our ecological footprint. Remember to recycle the cardboard boxes from all your purchases and gifts!

It is common to decorate with holiday lights and to give electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, computers) as gifts. If you are thinking of throwing away old, unwanted lights or electronics, please think again. Not only do these items fill up landfills, but they also release harmful chemicals to the environment. Light bulbs contain mercury, and electronic devices contain lead. These chemicals can threaten human health and cause damage to kidneys, brains, and hearts. Please bring your unwanted holiday lights and electronic devices to the Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center, located at 5125 NE 63rd Ave. Gainesville FL, 32609, for recycling and proper disposal.

For more information on what you can recycle in Alachua County, visit: <https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/SolidWaste>

# December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3		5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24		25	26
28	29	30	31		Recycle broken string lights at the HazWaste Center or Rural Collection Centers. See page 3 for more information.	

# Get out and **EXPLORE**

There is simply no better way to gain an appreciation for the natural environment than to go out and explore it, canoe it, hike it, bike it... you get the idea! Below are some of our favorite Alachua County Forever Preserves.

Preserve Name	Location	Description	Activities
Barr Hammock Preserve - Levy Prairie	14920 SE 11th Dr, Micanopy	This Preserve is accessible from the northern entrance off of SE 11th Drive. The 6.5-mile Levy Loop Trail encircles a wet prairie and offers vistas along the unshaded northern trail. Spring and fall wildflowers, and migratory birds in fall and winter. Southern portion of loop is shaded.	NO DOGS
Barr Hammock Preserve - South Entrance	300 SE 175th Ave, Micanopy	13 miles of shared, forested trails; a favorite loop for hikers is the Bayhead trail; for equestrians, the Hammock Trail. If you are up for a long hike or ride, the Landing Overlook offers magnificent views.	
Buck Bay Preserve	6502 N County Rd. 225, Gainesville	Multiple trails loop through pine flatwoods habitat, ranging from 0.7 miles to 2.5 miles in length.	
Four Creeks Preserve	6845 NW 37th St, Gainesville	A partnership property with the City of Gainesville, with a 2.5-mile walking loop trail through pine and hardwood forests. Trail can be flooded during wet periods. There is currently no parking at this preserve.	NO BIKES
Fox Pen Preserve	Near 10777 Holden Park Road in Hawthorne	A 1-mile-long trail loop through pine and wetland habitat. A partnership project with Alachua Conservation Trust.	
Lake Alto Preserve - North	14500 County Rd 1471, Waldo	3.5 miles of unpaved trails accessible from the Preserve entrance off of CR 1471, or from the boat dock on Lake Alto. Look for black bear tracks in the north portion of the preserve.	
Lake Alto Preserve - South	18795 NE 132nd Ave, Waldo	The 1.2-mile Canal Loop is accessible from NE 132nd Ave, less than 1/2 mi east of CR 1471. Wildflowers abound in fall near the entrance.	
Longleaf Flatwoods Preserve	Main parking area located on CR 325, about 2.3 mi south of Hawthorne Rd/SR 20.	Managed by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), the Preserve features relatively intact natural communities including sandhill, mesic flatwoods, and cypress swamps. Wildflowers can be plentiful spring thru fall. Group camping is available by reservation only at <a href="https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/camping">https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/camping</a> .	
Mill Creek Preserve	14505 NW County Road 236, Alachua (just west of the intersection with CR 241)	This Preserve features about 5 miles of trails and the southernmost extent of American beech trees. There are several easy-to-moderate marked loop trails of various lengths. See migratory birds in fall.	NO BIKES
Newnans Lake Conservation Area	3 tracts: Hatchet Creek Tract trailhead is 0.9 mile east of the Hatchet Creek bridge on SR 26; North Tract trailhead is on CR 234, 2.2 mi south of SR 26; South Tract trailhead is near Newnans Lake boat ramp on SE 3rd Place, Windsor	Managed by SJRWMD, the best time to visit this area is winter, as some trails can be wet and buggy during the summer, and there are trail closures during hunting season in fall and spring. Horses are limited to the Hatchet Creek and North Tracts. Group camping is available by reservation only at <a href="https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/camping">https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/camping</a> .	
Phifer Flatwoods Preserve	Parking area located at 12243 SE County Rd 2082 on the Gainesville Hawthorne State Trail (GHST)	Four different short trails (ranging from 0.5 miles to 1.3 miles) through pine flatwoods near wetland areas. Trails are accessible from the Gainesville Hawthorne State Trail.	
Poe Springs Park	28800 NW 182nd Ave, High Springs	This park offers swimming in the springs, picnic facilities, play areas as well as hiking trails. Parking fee is \$6 per vehicle.	
Serenola Forest Preserve	Near the intersection of SW 21st Street and SW 49th Ave., near Idylwild Elementary School	A 1-mile trail loops through a diverse hardwood forest. Two street parking spots by the main trail head, but trail access is primarily by foot or bike. Managed by Alachua Conservation Trust.	
Sweetwater Preserve	2 trailheads: one at 309 SE 16th Ave, Gainesville; the other located north of Boulware Springs City Park (3300 SE 15th St, Gainesville) on the GHST	The 1.75-mile West Trail accessible from SE 16th Ave. offers full shade along Sweetwater Branch. It connects to the 1.2-mile Sandy Trail (parking at Boulware Springs), which weaves through 8 different natural communities.	
Turkey Creek Preserve	2 trailheads: Main Trailhead (with parking) located at 6300 NW 93rd Ave, Alachua; the other, Pedestrian Trailhead (no parking) located at 10182 NW 59th Terr, Alachua	Features 5 miles of unpaved trails over rolling topography through a variety of habitat types. All trails can be accessed from either trailhead, and there is also a 1/2 mile Fitness Trail with 7 exercise stations to add a workout to your visit. Please refer to exercise equipment rules and instructions found onsite.	
Watermelon Pond Park and Preserve	10700 SW 250th St, Newberry	A marshy, sandhill lake, accessible for shallow water boaters from the boat ramp at Watermelon Pond Park.	



Hiking/Nature Trails



Horseback Riding Trails



Dogs on leash



Fishing



Bicycling Trails



Group Camping (reservation only)



Boat Ramp



Hunting (during season)