

**Gainesville's Natural Treasures** can be found throughout the city. You can stroll along a trail deep in the woods, walk a boardwalk edging a blackwater stream, take a class to become familiar with the fascinating wildlife, or step back in time over 130 years on a ten-acre Living History Farm. Visit the spring where Gainesville began or ride your bicycle or horse on the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail. Enjoy the best bird watching in North Florida, observe butterflies busy at wildflowers, and hear frogs calling for mates. Nature parks are an integral part of the reason Gainesville is one of the best places in the U.S. to live... there is a sanctuary within minutes of wherever you are in the city. You can be proud that Gainesville has cared enough to protect over 2000 acres of conservation land for your children and grandchildren to savor. See these treasures for yourself... get to know your nature parks!

### Environmental/ Historical Education:

Throughout the year classes and organizations from around North Central Florida come to the nature parks for educational and interpretive programs. The hands-on programs include environmental education, living history of an 1870s farm, and the heritage of the Timucua Indians. Adults and families can join us for specialized classes and interpretive programs; most offered free to the public. For more information or reservations for classes or tours, call 334-2170 or log on to [www.natureoperations.org](http://www.natureoperations.org).

### Support Organizations:

Gainesville's nature parks are managed by the Nature Operations Division of the City of Gainesville's Recreation and Parks Department. Many volunteers and the following groups assist in caring for the parks:

Nature Centers Commission is a volunteer citizen's advisory board whose members are appointed by the City Commission to act as advocates for the nature parks.

Friends of Morningside is the original not-for-profit support organization that provides volunteers, supplemental funding, and advocacy for the city's nature park system.

Friends of Ring Park, founded in 1998, serves as the not-for-profit support organization for the Emily S. Ring Wildflower Garden at Alfred A. Ring Park.

### Protection and Manners:

The parks and conservation areas are sanctuaries where all plants, animals, historic and cultural resources are protected by law. Please remain quiet when visiting to respect other visitors and to see the wildlife!

- Removal of plants, animals, or archaeological or cultural resources is strictly prohibited. Qualified researchers are encouraged to use the parks and conservation areas. Guidelines and permits for such research are available upon request.
- Dogs are allowed on certain NOD lands provided that they are leashed at all times. The person bringing in dogs must clean up and properly dispose of the animal's waste (Gainesville City Code Chapter 18, Section 18-20).
- Bicycles are allowed in certain parks or conservation areas but only on designated trails.
- Please do not go off designated trails or enter wet areas.
- An adult should supervise children at all times.
- Please pick up and take out litter; if you see something that needs attention, please let us know.

Please check individual park rules for opportunities, restrictions and operating hours.

TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN ALL PARKS AND CONSERVATION AREAS, THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ALLOWED:

- Firearms
- Trapping/feeding or releasing of wildlife
- Motorized vehicles including motorcycles, off-road, all-terrain and track vehicles (except at designated parking areas)
- Smoking
- Alcoholic beverages
- Fires (except in park BBQ grills)
- Littering or destruction of property

Please reuse or recycle by sharing with a friend.  
Revised in 2004 by the Nature Operations Division.



# Discover Gainesville's Natural Treasures



Treat's rainlily  
*Zephyranthes atamasco var. treatiae*  
(Florida threatened species)

City of Gainesville  
Recreation and Parks Department  
Nature Operations Division  
[www.natureoperations.org](http://www.natureoperations.org)  
(352) 393-8756

Alfred A. Ring Park



### Alfred A. Ring Park

1801 NW 23rd Boulevard, (352) 334-2231

Open 8am-6pm (Nov-Apr); 8am-8pm (May-Oct)

22 acres with over a mile of trails

Trails meander through the forest along Hogtown Creek and past a wildflower garden and bird blind. Natural Communities include the Seepage Stream, Upland Mixed Forest, and Slope Forest.

H J L T  N H E K

Bivens Arm Nature Park



### Bivens Arm Nature Park

3650 S. Main Street, (352) 334-2231

Open 9am to 5pm daily

54 acres with a mile of trails and boardwalks

A children's interpretive trail is featured along the boardwalk. Natural Communities include the Marsh and Upland Mixed Forest on the edge of Payne's Prairie.

H J L T  N H

Boulware Springs Park & Historic Water Works



### Boulware Springs Park / Historic Water Works

3400/3500 SE 15th Street, (352) 334-2170

Open 8am-6pm (Nov-Apr); 8am-8pm (May-Oct)

108 acres

Trailhead for the 17-mile Gainesville-to-Hawthorne state trail. The historic spring house can be rented by calling (352) 334-2170. Natural Communities include the Upland Mixed Forest, Spring Run, and 45 acres of restored Sandhill.

H J L T  N H I K

Cofrin Nature Park



### Cofrin Nature Park

4810 NW 8th Avenue, (352) 334-2231.

Will be open to the public in 2005. Regular hours to be determined. Please see website for details.

30 Acres with hiking trail

Picturesque Beville Heights Creek meanders through this nature park in the heart of urban west Gainesville. Natural Communities include the Seepage Stream, Upland Mixed Forest, and Seepage Slope Wetlands.

H J L, T 

Flatwoods Conservation Area



### Flatwoods Conservation Area

2001 NE 39th Avenue, access from NE 31st Avenue

(352) 334-2231 Open from dawn to dusk daily,

74 acres with 1/2 mile of trails

A grassy path allows visitors to hike or bike along the canal and observe the natural communities and wildlife found here. Natural Communities include the Mesic and Wet Pine Flatwoods, Basin Swamp, and Cypress Dome.

J T  K I

Gum Root Park



### Gum Root Park

NE 27th Avenue and S.R. 26, (352) 334-2231

Open from dawn to dusk daily

369 acres with more than a mile of trails

Gum Root features trails through a variety of habitats with excellent birding and wildlife viewing. Natural Communities include the Blackwater Stream, Floodplain Swamp, Xeric Hammock, Baygall, Pasture, and Pine Flatwoods.

H J L T  K I



Hogtown Creek  
Greenway



**Hogtown Creek Greenway**

342 acres of natural areas within the Hogtown Creek system are managed to protect the water quality of the creek and provide habitat for diverse plants and animals. Tours of Broken Arrow Bluff, 29<sup>th</sup> Road Conservation Area, Forest Park Conservation Area, and Sugarfoot Prairie Conservation Area can be arranged through the Nature Operations Division by calling 334-2231. Natural Communities include the Slope Forest, Hydric Hammock, Floodplain Swamp, and Upland Mixed Forest.

J, T 

Loblolly Environmental  
Facility and Woods



**Loblolly Environmental Facility and Woods**

3315 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, (352) 334-2231

Open from dawn to dusk daily  
164 acres with a mile of trails

The Loblolly Woods features a portion of the Hogtown Creek Greenway with scenic trails along the creek. Natural communities include Floodplain Forest and Upland Mixed Forest.

H J L, T  , N H K I

Split Rock  
Conservation Area



**Split Rock Conservation Area**

SW 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, (352) 334-2231

Limited access; to arrange a tour contact Nature Operations Division at (352) 334-2231.

241 acres with a two mile loop trail  
Majestic oaks shade trails leading to scenic Hogtown Prairie, where Hogtown Creek disappears into the Floridan aquifer. Natural communities include Calcareous Hammock, Hydric Hammock, and Wet Prairie.

J, T  I

Morningside Nature  
Center



**Morningside Nature Center**

3540 E. University Avenue, (352) 334-2170

Open 9am to 5pm daily

278 acres with extensive trail system

Enjoy wildflower and wildlife viewing. Events include: The Great Air Potato Roundup, Fall and Spring Native Plant Sales, spring and summer day camps, and ongoing interpretive programs. Natural communities include the Longleaf Pine Sandhill (13 acre Longleaf restoration area), Flatwoods, Basin Swamp, and Cypress Dome

H J L, T  , N H M G 

Morningside's Living  
History Farm



**Morningside's Living History Farm**

3540 E. University Avenue, (352) 334-2170

Open 9am to 5pm daily, see web for Living History Days

10 acres within Morningside Nature Center

An 1870s farm recreates life of a Florida cracker family. The farm hosts programs for schoolchildren and living history days, where visitors can interact with interpretive staff in period dress. Annual events: Farm and Forest Festival in Spring and Cane Boil with Youth Fiddle Contest in Fall.

H J L, T  , N H M G 

Palm Point Park



**Palm Point Park**

7401 Lake Shore Drive, (352) 334-2231

Open from dawn to dusk daily

16.1 acres

Palm Point extends 700 feet into Newnan's Lake with native wildflowers that make this an excellent butterfly viewing area. The park is listed on the Great Florida Birding Trail. Natural communities include the Floodplain Swamp, Hydric Hammock, and Lake.

H L, T  E

