



Alachua County

Alachua County Forever

First Acquisition: Mill Creek Preserve



American Beech Tree, *Fagus grandiflora*. Mill Creek is home to the southernmost Beech-Magnolia forest habitat in the U.S.
Photo credit: Sandra Vardaman

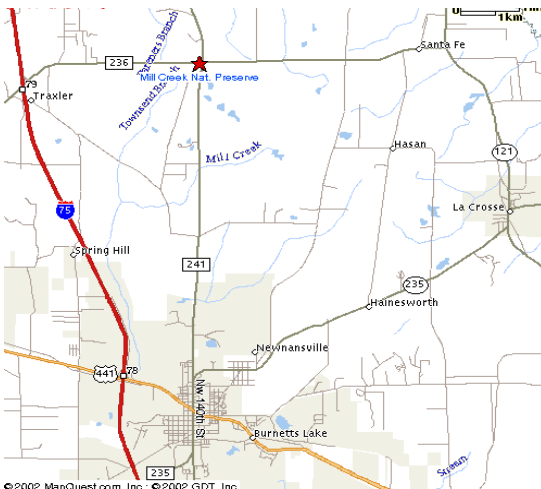
Date: November 8, 2002 Purchase Price: \$2,380/acre
Sellers: Lybass family Size: 1,190 acres

- Project nominated by owner James H. Lybass Jr.
- It is the keystone tract in the Mill Creek Project.
- Outstanding features include: Pond pine flatwoods, southernmost population of Beech-magnolia slope forest, seepage and blackwater streams, pond spice, needle palm, green fly orchid, southern lady fern and cinnamon fern.
- Habitat for bobcats, American swallow-tailed kites, otters, grey foxes and wild turkeys, wading birds and one of the southernmost beaver populations in the U.S.
- Connected to both the Santa Fe River to the north and to Mill Creek Sink to the south. Mill Creek Sink drains directly into the Floridan Aquifer and is connected to Hornsby Springs.
- Cultural resources include the Magnolia Hill archaeological site, the Old Providence Road and the Old Santa Fe Trail, reportedly used by Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto.
- Site will be managed the as a preserve to enhance its natural resource values and provide a nature-based passive recreation for residents and visitors.
- Alachua County was awarded a \$1.44 million check from Florida Communities Trust to assist with this purchase.
- Physical improvements include a primitive parking area, hiking trails, interpretive exhibits and a wildlife observation platform.



ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER REFERENDUM

Approved in November 2000 by the voters, to acquire and manage the county's environmentally sensitive lands.



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Beaver Pond. Photo credit: Chris Eversole

Alachua County Commission

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