

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.

**Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department
Land Conservation Program
408 W. University Ave. Suite 106
Gainesville, FL 32601**

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

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



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

Trail Map

**12243 SE County Road
2082 Hawthorne, Florida**



Slash pines (Pinus elliottii)

Preserve Hours:

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

Trail Guide

Trails go through a range of natural communities from mesic flatwoods and old pine plantation to hardwood hammocks and cypress swamps. Trails may contain short steep hills, patches of deep sand and gravel, may be flooded and muddy during rainy season.

About the Preserve

Phifer Flatwoods Preserve's original tract was 644.5 acres purchased in 2006 with Alachua County Forever Bond funds and a Florida Communities Trust grant. Since then Alachua County has acquired several more tracts totaling 1,649.6 acres of protected land all purchased with Wild Spaces & Public Places surtax proceeds, and 2 small parcel donations. There are 15 distinct natural community types within the preserve, with the dominant community type being mesic flatwoods. The Phifer area is named for the W.B. Phifer Naval Stores Company founded by the eldest of 3 brothers. The Phifer Naval Stores Company operated a turpentine still nearby, and at the time the land was used for turpentine and timber production. Goods produced at the still were exported on the Florida Southern Railroad, which is now the Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail.

