

## **Gainesville-to-Hawthorne State Trail**

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**Planning Region:** Trail System

**County:** Alachua

**Lease/Management Agreement Number:** 2515

### **Overview**

Designated as a National Recreation Trail, the Gainesville-to-Hawthorne State Trail preserves various cultural resources found along the railroad and the railroad itself, continues to utilize the historic route rail travelers once took, and serve as a seamless transportation corridor. Healthy, accessible recreation from a small town to a large municipality is provided and well-designed open spaces are created that support the region's economic development.

**Total Acreage:** 140.20

<b>Altered Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Developed	140.20

**Acquisition:** The Gainesville-to-Hawthorne State Trail was initially acquired on September 1, 1970, from CSX Transportation, Inc. using the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.

### **Resource Management Component Objectives**

#### **Hydrology**

- Conduct/obtain an assessment of the trail's hydrological restoration needs.

#### **Imperiled Species**

- Update baseline imperiled species occurrence list.
- Monitor and document one selected imperiled animal species (gopher tortoise).

#### **Cultural Resources**

- Assess/evaluate this one linear resource (Atlantic Coastline Railroad: Gainesville, AL05203).

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### **Land Use Component Objectives**

#### **Conceptual Land Use**

##### General Trail Needs

- Resurface the trail.
- Assess and repair bridges as needed.
- Work with the Department of Transportation to improve cyclists' safety.
- Ensure effective monitoring of local gopher tortoise populations.

##### Alachua Sink Hammock

- Prevent unauthorized activity around sensitive karst features.

##### Prairie Creek

- Prevent fishing off bridge.

##### Lochloosa Trailhead

- Consider removing this trailhead.
- If retaining trailhead, provide directional signs from State Road 20 and an interpretive kiosk.

##### Hawthorne Trailhead

- Install a permanent restroom.

#### **Optimum Boundary**

The Nature Coast Trail Corridor Florida Forever Board of Trustees Project and Gainesville to Newberry Corridor would conveniently connect cyclists from the Gainesville to Hawthorne Trail to the Nature Coast Trail. To support the Office of Greenways and Trails Priority Trail Network, the Waldo Road Corridor should be acquired to connect the trail to the center of the Palatka-to-Lake Butler Trail. The Palatka to Hawthorne Corridor would provide a connection to the eastern terminus of the Palatka-to-Lake Butler Trail and eventually, the Palatka-to-St. Augustine State Trail. Acquiring these Land Trail Priority projects will provide nearly 100 miles of continuous cycling.