

Moonshine Creek is located entirely within the preserve. It is formed from a series of seeps just north of Millhopper Road. The creek meanders through a ravine until draining into the aquifer through a swallow at its southern end. The creek got its name during prohibition where it was the site of a moonshine still providing illegal alcohol to citizens of Alachua County.

The Moonshine Creek Trail begins at the parking lot off Millhopper Road. The trail is approximately one mile long. The beginning of the trail passes through sunny pine forests dominated by turkey oak, slash pine, spruce pine and wiregrass. The trail makes a dramatic change as you enter the ravine. The canopy here is dominated by slash, loblolly and spruce pines, oaks, hickories, gums and magnolia. Spotted throughout are sink holes. This is a good example of a mesic mixed hardwood forest.

The start of the Creek Sink Trail is half way through the Moonshine Creek Trail. Taking this trail will increase your tour to 2.3 miles. This trail goes around the swamps and bottomland forest where the waters of the creek, at the southernmost part of the trail, are absorbed into the underlying aquifer.

For Your Safety and Enjoyment:

Be sure to allow plenty of time to walk the trails. The trails look a lot different after dark!

Dress appropriately for the weather conditions and wear comfortable shoes.

Insect repellent, particularly in the summer months is highly recommended.

Pets must remain on a hand-held leash at all times. This is for the safety of your pet, other hikers and any wildlife you may encounter.

Take drinking water for both you and your pet! There may not always be a source of drinking water along the trail for your pet.

No bicycles are allowed on the trails!

