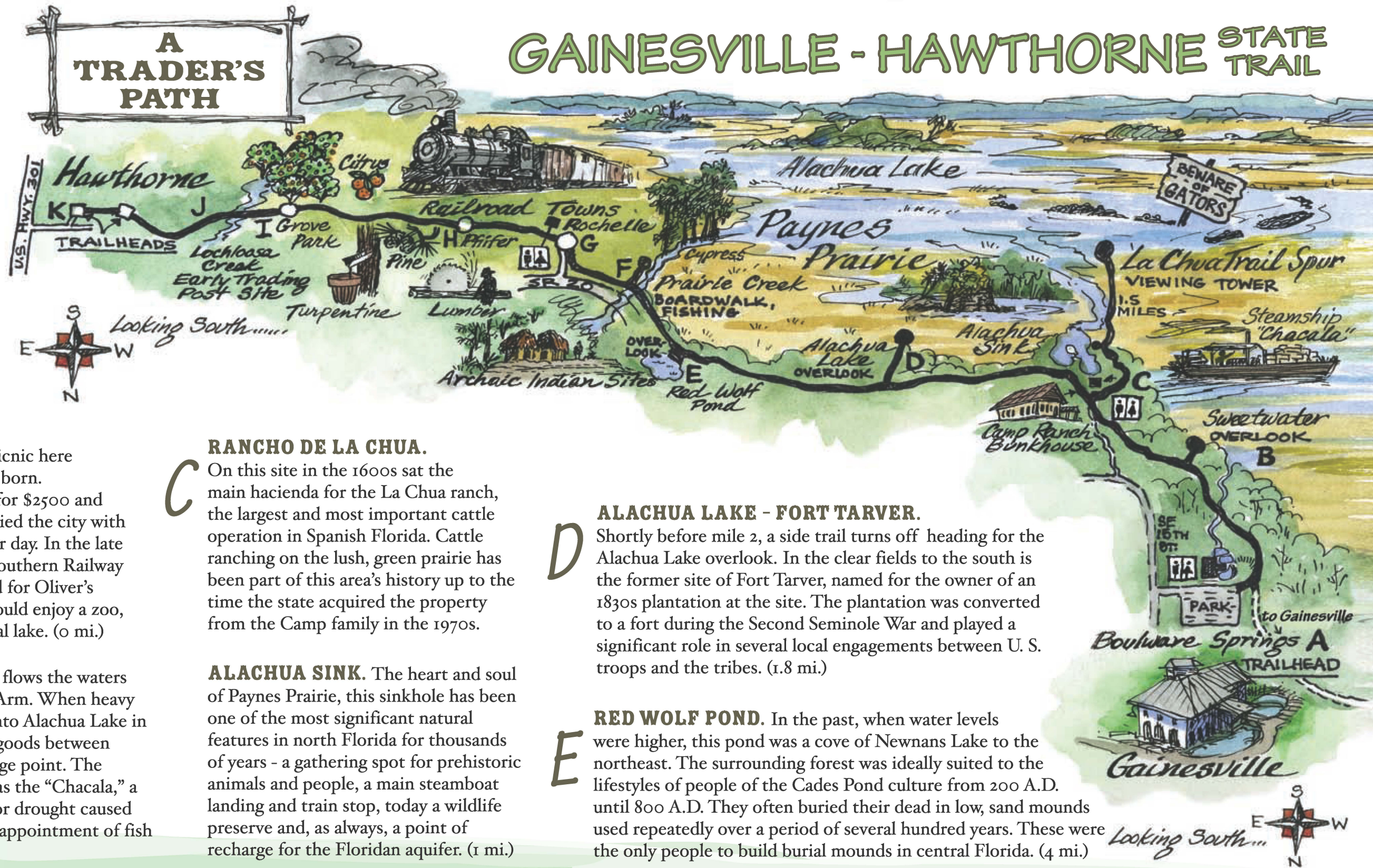


**P**assing by native plants and wildlife, unique scenery, and backyard Florida culture, the old rail bed turned greenway is both a paved recreational surface and a grassy path for equestrians. As you make your way down the trail, trade your modern life for the days of citrus groves, small railroad towns, and locomotives. This route, a "trader's path," stretches back even further in time to the days of William Bartram, Seminole Indians, and Florida's first people.

# GAINESVILLE - HAWTHORNE STATE TRAIL



**A BOULWARE SPRINGS.** At a picnic here in 1854, the city of Gainesville was born. Gainesville purchased the springs for \$2500 and built a pumphouse that once supplied the city with nearly 300,000 gallons of water per day. In the late 1800s, passenger cars of the new Southern Railway were often full of picnickers bound for Oliver's Park at Boulware Springs. Folks would enjoy a zoo, dance pavilion and even an artificial lake. (0 mi.)

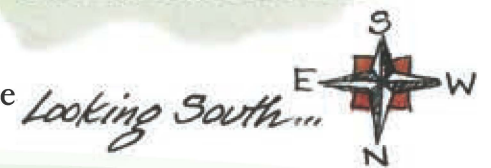
**B SWEETWATER.** Into this cove flows the waters of Sweetwater Branch and Bivens Arm. When heavy rains transformed Paynes Prairie into Alachua Lake in the 1870s and '80s, boats carrying goods between landings were seen from this vantage point. The largest steamer to regularly pass was the "Chacala," a 32-foot steam yacht. In 1892 a major drought caused the lake to dry up, much to the disappointment of fish and fishermen alike. (.7 mi.)

**C RANCHO DE LA CHUA.** On this site in the 1600s sat the main hacienda for the La Chua ranch, the largest and most important cattle operation in Spanish Florida. Cattle ranching on the lush, green prairie has been part of this area's history up to the time the state acquired the property from the Camp family in the 1970s.

**ALACHUA SINK.** The heart and soul of Paynes Prairie, this sinkhole has been one of the most significant natural features in north Florida for thousands of years - a gathering spot for prehistoric animals and people, a main steamboat landing and train stop, today a wildlife preserve and, as always, a point of recharge for the Floridan aquifer. (1 mi.)

**D ALACHUA LAKE - FORT TARVER.** Shortly before mile 2, a side trail turns off heading for the Alachua Lake overlook. In the clear fields to the south is the former site of Fort Tarver, named for the owner of an 1830s plantation at the site. The plantation was converted to a fort during the Second Seminole War and played a significant role in several local engagements between U. S. troops and the tribes. (1.8 mi.)

**E RED WOLF POND.** In the past, when water levels were higher, this pond was a cove of Newnans Lake to the northeast. The surrounding forest was ideally suited to the lifestyles of people of the Cades Pond culture from 200 A.D. until 800 A.D. They often buried their dead in low, sand mounds used repeatedly over a period of several hundred years. These were the only people to build burial mounds in central Florida. (4 mi.)



**PRAIRIE CREEK.** For much of the past 12,000 years, the area to the north of this bridge was a hub of human activity. In Newnans Lake, over a hundred dugout canoes have been found, with ages ranging from 500 to 5,000 years old. In the late 1800s, trains of the Florida Southern Railway made stops for timber at a depot near the west bank of Prairie Creek named Kelley's Mill. (4.8 mi.)



**ROCHELLE.** During the 1880s, 24 trains came through Rochelle daily, bringing enough visitors to warrant building a hotel. The Alachua Trail, one of the oldest routes in north Florida, passed nearby. Fort Crane, Paynestown and Cuscowilla were located along this trader's path. In 1812, Newnan's Battle took place here. The Seminoles won, but Chief King Payne suffered fatal wounds. Paynes Prairie was named for the chief, while Newnans Lake was named for the leader of the defeated soldiers. Be sure to explore the trails of Alachua Conservation Trust's Prairie Creek Preserve. (6.4 mi.)



**PHIFER.** Once a small railroad town, Phifer is now an even smaller "Rail-Trail" town, with just a few residences. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, crews tapped these pine trees for resin to make turpentine and other products. Some trees can be seen today with the "catface" and metal drains that allowed sap to flow into collecting boxes. Don't miss Alachua County Forever's Phifer Flatwoods Preserve. (10.4 mi.)

**GROVE PARK.** Another old railroad town, Grove Park was once a stop for goods and citrus. Major freezes in the 1890's destroyed a thriving citrus industry in north Florida. Contrary to general belief, the orange tree is not indigenous to Florida but was introduced by the Spanish. (11.6 mi.)



**LOCHLOOSA.** When William Bartram, famed naturalist, traveled to Paynes Prairie, his path carried him across Lochloosa Creek. He described the creek as "a rapid brook, rippling over the gravelly bed, hurrying the transparent waters into a vast and beautiful lake." As he paused for a rest along the banks, Bartram documented "evident signs and traces of a powerful settlement of the ancients." (13.8 mi.)



**HAWTHORNE.** Named for James Hawthorn, a 24-year old Georgian who moved here with his wife in 1834. After serving in the war against the Seminoles, he returned home to prosper as a citrus grower, his success drawing other settlers to the area. By 1879, his influence was honored by the new residents who named the community Hawthorn, the "e" being added by the railroad company. The area's economy has shifted from citrus and vegetable crops to timber. Much of the local pine land is now owned by a timber company. (15.2 mi.)

## GAINESVILLE - HAWTHORNE STATE TRAIL

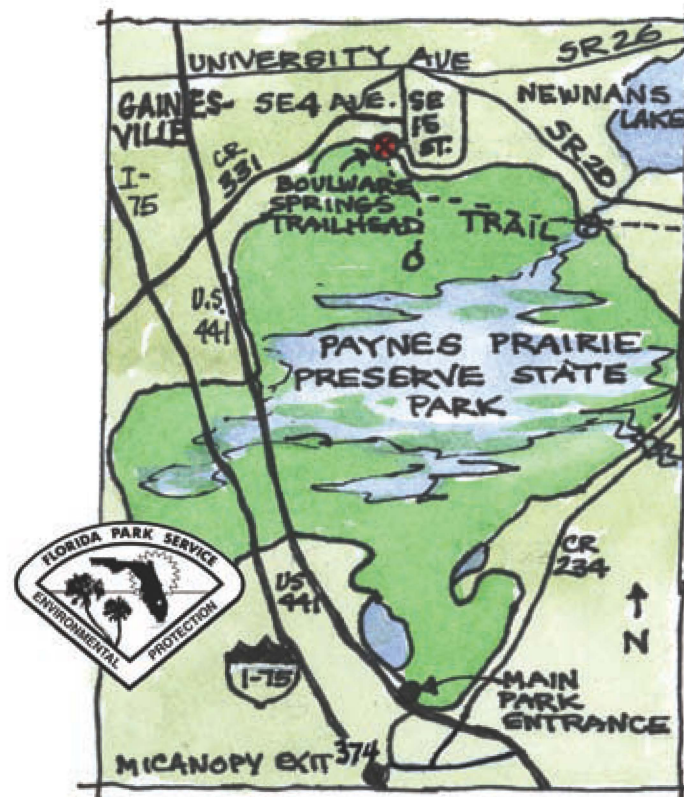
The trail is open from 8 a.m. to sunset 365 days a year. Bike, foot, rollerblade, or equestrian traffic only. No motorized vehicles.

What to take with you – friends, protective equipment (bike helmet, etc), water, snacks, cell phone, and personal identification. Bug spray and binoculars can be good too.

Dogs must be leashed at all times.

*Brochure printing financed by the Friends of Paynes Prairie and a Tourist Development Tax Grant from the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners in conjunction with the Alachua County Tourist Development Council.*

*Cover photo by John Moran. Illustrations by Kate Barnes.*

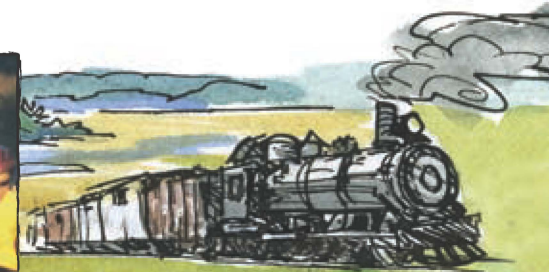


[www.prairiefriends.org](http://www.prairiefriends.org)  
[www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org)

## A TRADER'S PATH



# GAINESVILLE HAWTHORNE STATE TRAIL



**RAILS TO TRAILS**  
*Self-Guided Tour...*

