## **History and Nature**

The San Felasco Hammock is one of the finest and largest remaining examples of mature upland hardwood forest, Florida's richest, most diverse ecosystem. This 7,300-acre preserve includes about 25 different natural communities, including the rare upland mixed woodland, upland pine, sandhill, and a host of wetland habitats. Sinkholes. seepage springs, ponds and swamps dot the landscape. The limestone outcrops, extreme changes in elevation, and shady canopy of the Hammock provide optimal conditions for many species of hardwood trees, herbs and ferns rarely seen elsewhere. Rare and unusual plants can be found along the slopes of the ravines and sinkholes. The park is also home to several champion trees.

Blues Creek, Turkey Creek and Cellon Creek all enter San Felasco from outside the park boundary and flow through the park, finally dropping into swallows, which drain back into the aquifer. These "stream to sink" systems are common in the area due to the underlying limestone geology. The western portions of the preserve are dominated by longleaf pine communities, which are routinely managed with prescribed fires designed to mimic the natural fires that once burned these woodlands.

The park provides habitat for wildlife such as bobcat, white-tailed deer, gray fox and turkey. Less obvious wildlife species include many species of reptiles and amphibians, including gopher tortoises, gopher frogs, Florida mice and mole salamanders. San Felasco Hammock is also renowned as a popular birding destination since the wide variety of natural habitats provide for many species of birds.



#### Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks

#### San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park

12720 NW 109 Lane Alachua, FL 32615 (386) 462-7905

FloridaStateParks.org

### **Park Guidelines**

- Hours of operation are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected.
- Dogs on a hand-held six-foot leash are welcome on the San Felasco hiking trails. Pets are not allowed on the Biking Trails. Except for horses, no other pets are allowed on the Equestrian Trails.
- Equestrians must carry proof of a negative Coggins test.
- Alcoholic beverages, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Become a volunteer, call (386) 462-7905.
- For information about joining Friends of San Felasco, Inc., call (386) 462-7905.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please call (386)-462-7905.

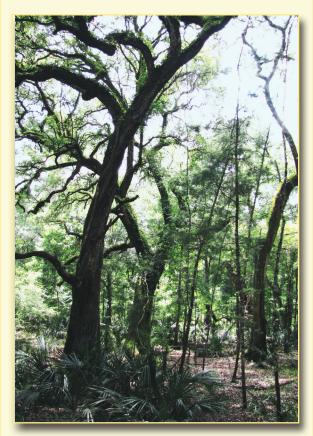
Large Print Alternate format available upon request at any Florida state park.





# San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park

One of the few remaining mature forests in Florida



...the Real Floridas



National Gold Medal Winner

Florida State Parks - "America's First Three-Time Winner"

# Welcome to ... The Real Florida M

Hiking, biking and horseback riding trail systems are available. Access to the Wilderness Area for hiking or running only is via the south entrance off Millhopper Road. Over two-thirds of the park is a designated Wilderness Area ensuring solitude and quiet for a true outdoor experience. There are four trails for any level from a casual walker to the serious hiker. Dogs permitted on a hand-held six-foot leash.

Progress Boulevard off of U.S. 441 south of Alachua is the primary entrance for equestrians and mountain bikers, although hikers are welcome. Pets are not permitted on these trails.

Bike trails are for off-road users and none are paved. Cyclists can enjoy over 35 miles of diverse and challenging singletrack. Two well-established bike trails at the north entrance trailhead are Cellon Creek and Tung Nut Loop. Cellon Creek is a four mile trail that parallels a blackwater stream and features rolling terrain and small log jumps. Tung Nut Loop is an eight mile, more strenuous trail with hill climbs, steep switchbacks, log bridges, and spectacular views of Sanchez Prairie. Several additional trails are available. Because of the varied terrain, bringing basic tools such as a pump, replacement inner tubes and multi-tool kit is recommended. Horses are not allowed on the bike trails.

Horseback riders also have a designated trail system. There are over 15 miles available that wind through shady woods, along creek beds and through open fields and wooded forests. Horse drawn carriages are also welcome on Cellon Creek and Turkey Creek trails. Access to trails wide enough to accommodate carriages are through a special gate upon request. Horses are not available for rent at the park. All horse riders must have proof of negative Coggins on their person or in their saddlebag. Bicycles are not allowed on the horse trails.



To the Hiking Trailhead: Take I-75 to C.R. 222 (Exit 390). Drive west 2.9 miles to C.R. 241. Turn right onto C.R. 241 and drive 2.0 miles to C.R. 232. Turn right onto C.R. 232 and drive 2.2 miles. The park entrance is on the right just east of the I-75 overpass. (No interchange at this overpass.) To the Equestrian and Mountain Bike Trailhead: Take I-75 to U.S. 441 (Exit 399). Drive south 2.8 miles (through the city of Alachua). Turn right onto Progress Blvd. Drive 0.7 miles to the park entrance. (Continue past the end of the pavement and onto the grade road.)