

TURKEY CREEK HAMMOCK PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Date of Plan:	
Management Area:	376.58 acres
Location:	Central Alachua County within the City of Alachua, adjacent to the eastern side of San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park, west of NW 59 th Terrace and north of NW 93 rd Avenue
Date Acquired:	December 15, 2009
Cost:	\$3,858,200 (Land \$3,828,800, acquisition cost \$29,400)
Parcels:	05923-002-000, 05923-003-000, 05923-004-000, 05923-005-000, 05923-006-000, 05923-007-000, 05923-008-000, 05923-009-000, 05923-010-000, 05923-011-000
Funding Source:	ACF 61.12%, FCT 38.88%

Summary: The Turkey Creek Hammock Preserve (Preserve) lies within the City of Alachua and is adjacent to San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park (SFHP). It was acquired through the Alachua County Forever Program with funds from the Alachua County Wild Spaces Public Places Sales Tax and a reimbursement grant from Florida Communities Trust (FCT). The Preserve buffers SFHP from urbanizing land uses and protects $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of Turkey Creek that discharges into the Floridan Aquifer through a sinkhole in SFHP. Outstanding biotic features include basin swamp, depression marsh, upland hardwood forest, blackwater stream, and sinkhole, and protection of a poppy mallow population. The preserve will be managed to protect, preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources found on the property and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience.

Key Management Objectives:

1. Maintain or enhance existing natural communities
2. Inventory natural features of the site, including flora, fauna and natural communities
3. Develop and implement a prescribed fire management plan
4. Protect populations of significant and listed plant and animal species
5. Restore existing pine plantation to appropriate natural communities
6. Protect water resource values from adverse impacts, and enhance values where feasible
7. Effectively and responsibly manage historic resources
8. Promote public outdoor recreation and environmental education consistent with preserving the historic resources of the site

Resource Management Issues:

- UPLAND RESTORATION - Restore up to 72 acres of uplands to a combination of upland pine and upland hardwood forest. Initial restoration efforts will be on 10 acres of upland pine habitat.
- FIRE MANAGEMENT – Develop and implement a prescribed fire plan to reduce risk of wildfire, manage fuel loads, enhance natural ecological processes and facilitate restoration.
- INVASIVE PLANTS – Continue control and eradication efforts on invasive, non-native plant species.
- FERAL ANIMALS - Remove non-native animals as needed.

- HISTORIC RESOURCES - Protect known sites from disturbance, and coordinate with Division of Historic Resources regarding identification and protection of historic sites.
- MONITORING - Monitor property through field inspections and photopoints to determine success of management strategies.

Site Development and Maintenance

- PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS – Develop trailhead facilities, entrance sign, bike rack, interpretive kiosk, marsh overlook, smallwildlife observation platform, a 10-station fitness trail, a swing bench and several small benches.
- RECREATION – Develop a network of hiking trails and a fitness loop.
- EDUCATION – Develop, fabricate and install interpretive exhibits (kiosk, trail signs), and provide at least 6 environmental education programs per year.
- MAINTENANCE - Maintain all improvements.
 - SECURITY – Perform regular security inspections, install informational and regulatory signage, and determine if additional access control is necessary.