



University of Florida Conservation Area Land Management Plan
Hogtown Creek Woods

Introduction

Hogtown Creek Woods is a 22-acre conservation area adjacent to southwest 34th Street (west side of the street) on the far western side of the main campus. These woods are primarily bottomland hardwood wetlands. Future, alternative, uses of the Conservation Area are limited by the amount of wetlands, which would require wetland mitigation through the St. Johns River Water Management District, before any development could occur. The 2000-2010 Campus Master Plan identified this area as Wetland Preservation Area 1.

Natural Areas Inventory

Water Resources

Hogtown Creek Woods lies near the base of the Hogtown Creek Basin. This area receives stormwater from adjacent campus lands to the south, SW 34th Street, Physical Plant Division facilities and the Maguire Village Area. A number of intermittent streams run through the property, mostly following stormwater drainage that is routed into the site. There has been no analysis of water quality entering these wetlands.

Any stormwater improvements should be coordinated with the Department of Transportation, which is responsible for some of the water entering the conservation area.



Wetland Interior

Natural Communities

Hogtown Creek is a Bottomland Forest on the edge of Hogtown Creek's floodplain - depression marsh. In general, these forests are characterized as a low-lying, closed-canopy forest of tall, straight trees with little ground cover with a smattering of ground cover that include ferns, herbs, and grasses. Bottomland Forests occur in low spots in depressions that are rarely inundated, allowing some upland species to survive. Soils are generally a mixture of clay and organic materials. The water table is high, but Bottomland Forests are inundated only during extreme floods or exceptionally heavy rains. At present an inventory of flora and fauna has not been completed for this site.

Plant Species

Plant species commonly found in Bottomland Forest's include water oak, live oak, red maple, sweetgum, loblolly pine, white cedar, cabbage palm, diamond-leaf oak, southern magnolia, loblolly bay, swamp tupelo, spruce pine, American beech, dahoon holly, wax myrtle, swamp dogwood, Florida elm, stiffcornel dogwood, and American hornbeam.

Invasive Non-Native Plant species

The following list of invasive plants has been documented on site Scratchtroat, Chinaberry, Chinese Tallow, Glossy Privet, and Loquat. Additionally, the University and the City of Gainesville successfully, secured a grant to help eliminate these plants from both of their adjoining properties. This grant was the number #1 ranked project submitted and was awarded \$21,063.13, with removal set to begin in the fall of 2004.

Animal Species

Animals potentially visiting or residing on site include marbled salamander, mole salamander, three-lined salamander, slimy salamander, five-lined skink, ringneck snake, gray rat snake, eastern king snake, cottonmouth, wood duck, red-tailed hawk, turkey, yellow-billed cuckoo, screech-owl, great-horned owl, ruby-throated hummingbird, acadian flycatcher, pileated woodpecker, hermit thrush, cedar waxwing, yellow-throated warbler, opossum, gray squirrel, flying squirrel, raccoon, mink, gray fox, bobcat, and white-tailed deer.



Hogtown Creek Woods

Soils Inventory

The following soil information for on-site soils was gathered from the Soil Survey of Alachua County (1985).

Bivans Sand

This gently sloping, poorly drained soil is on relatively broad flats and at the base of the rolling uplands. The areas are irregular in shape and range from about 10 to 55 acres. Typically the surface layer is dark gray sand about 6 inches thick. The subsurface layer is gray sand 9 inches thick. This Bivans soil has a perched water table that is in the surface and subsurface layers and the upper part of soil for 1 to 4 months during most years. Surface runoff is moderate. The available water capacity is low to medium.

Blichton Urban Land Complex

This complex consists of poorly drained, nearly level to gently sloping Blichton soils and Urban land. It is irregularly shaped with relatively small areas. About 50 to 85 percent of each delineation is open areas of Blichton soils. These open areas are gardens, vacant lots, lawns and playgrounds. About 15 to 50 percent of each delineation is Urban land. Urban land consists of areas covered with houses, streets, parking lots, sidewalks, industrial buildings and other structures.

Bonneau Fine Sand

This gently sloping, moderately well drained soil is in small to relatively large areas on uplands. Slopes are generally convex. Typically, the surface layer is dark gray fine sand about 9 inches thick. The subsurface layer is brownish yellow fine sand to a depth of 29 inches. The Bonneau soil has a water table that is at a depth of 40 to 60 inches for 1 to 3 months and at a depth of 60 to 72 inches for 2 to 3 months during most years. Surface runoff is slow. Permeability is moderately slow to moderate in the upper part of the subsoil and very slow to slow in the lower part.

Samsula Muck

This nearly level, very poorly drained organic soil is in large and small swamps, marshes and ponded areas in the broad flatwoods. Slopes are usually slightly concave and range from 0 to 1 percent. Areas are either circular, irregular in shape, or elongated. Typically, the surface layer is muck about 35 inches thick. The upper 8 inches is very dark brown and the lower 27 inches is very dark gray. The Samsula soil has water at or on the surface for more than 6 months during most years.

Wauchula Urban Land Complex

This complex consists of poorly drained, nearly level Wauchula soils and urban land. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent. Typically, the surface layer of Wauchula soils is black to dark gray sand about 8 inches thick. In the Wauchula soils, the water table is within 10 inches of the surface for about 1 to 3 months during most years. Natural fertility and organic matter contents are low. Permeability of the sandy surface and subsurface layers is rapid.

Cultural and Passive Recreational Resources

Hogtown Creek Woods does not have any public access or associated amenities. There are no known archeological or historic sites within the Conservation Area.

Future Improvements

Due to its wet nature and distance from the main campus this wetland area does not appear to warrant any recreational improvements and should be considered as a Nature Preserve. This designation is in line with the City's intentions for the contiguous areas to the west of this property. Improvements that do need to be addressed include properly placing signage (demonstrating the University's ownership), trash pickup around stormwater outfalls and culverts, and replace fencing along SW 34th Street.

Maps on the following pages:

1. Aerial Photo
2. Water Resources
3. Natural Communities
4. Soils