University of Florida Conservation Areas Land Management Plan

Trillium Slope (Golf Course Woods)

Introduction

Trillium Slope (Golf Course Woods) is a 4.9-acre Conservation Area named after a plant that is found in these woods and is considered rare in Florida. In fact, its location in these woods is thought to be the southern most extent of its range (it is also found in Hogtown Creek Woods). These woods are located on the northwest corner of the University Golf Course and border SW 34th Street. This area is made up of an upland mixed forest community with moderate slope edging down into the Hogtown Creek floodplain. In the 2000-2010 Campus Master Plan this area was designated as Active Recreation, since it is located on University Athletic Association property on the University Golf Club course. Based on recommendations made by the Conservation Study Committee this area was recommended for inclusion as a campus Conservation Area.

Natural Areas Inventory

Water Resources

This wooded Conservation Area is located in the Hogtown Creek Basin, near the base of the drainage basin. A small intermittent stream flows through the woods and drains into a culvert that runs across S.W. 34th Street and ultimately discharges into Sugarfoot Prairie and Haile Sink. This stream appears to be the result of seepage from the surrounding higher elevations in the woods and adjoining golf course. Also, a retention pond just north of the site releases into the stream.

Bottomland forest at base of slope.

Natural Communities

The Trilium Slope woods are comprised primarily of a mesic / upland-mixed hardwood forest with a small area of bottomland forest running through it. Due to the relatively small size of the property, biodiversity is limited by substantial edge effects. In larger, less strenuous conditions mesic forests typically support significant wildlife and plant diversity, which result from the nutrient rich nature of hardwood forests and flowering and fruiting plants. Since these systems

are mature hardwood dominated, future management of this Conservation Area will be focused on invasive plant removal.

Plant Species
The tree canopy of these woods is made up of pignut hickory, sweetgum, Florida elm, hackberry, winged elm, black cherry, southern magnolia, red maple, devil's walking stick, and redbud.

Invasive – Non-Native Plant Species
An inventory has not been completed for this area, but based on a few visits the need to control cats claw and air potato vines is quite evident.

Animal Species
Animals typically found in mesic harwood systems, but which have not been documented on the property, include: slimy salamander, Cope's gray treefrog, bronze frog, box turtle, eastern glass lizard, green anole, broadhead skink, ground skink, red-bellied snake, gray rat snake, rough green snake, coral snake, woodcock, barred owl, pileated woodpecker, shrews, eastern mole, wood rat, cotton mouse, gray fox, and white-tailed deer, feral cats, raccoons, gray squirrels and armadillos. At present, an inventory on mammals, herps, and birds is not planned for this area.


Upland hardwood forest.

<u>Soils Inventory</u>
In general, Mesic upland mixed hardwood forests occur on rolling hills that often have limestone or phosphatic rock near the surface and occasionally as outcrops. Soils are generally sandy-clays or clayey sands with substantial organic and often calcareous components. The topography and clayey soils increase surface water runoff, although this is counterbalanced by the moisture retention properties of clays and by the often thick layer of leaf mulch which helps conserve soil moisture and create decidedly mesic conditions (FNAI).

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

Arredondo Fine Sand (0-5% slope)
This nearly level to gently sloping, well-drained soil is in both small and large areas of uplands. Slopes are smooth to complex. Typically, the surface layer is dark grayish brown fine sand about 8 inches thick. The subsurface layer is fine sand to a depth of 49 inches.

Pelham Sand
This nearly level, poorly drained soil is typically found in a flatwoods ecosystem. Typically, the surface layer is sand about 7 inches thick. The upper 4 inches is very dark grey. The subsurface layer is sand about 22 inches thick. Some mapped areas of this soil along the Hogtown Creek and its tributaries are occasionally flooded.

Cultural and Passive Recreational Resources
There are no cultural or passive recreational resources within the Trillium Slope Conservation Area. However, this site is within the Golf Course's property and as such typical golf amenities are located nearby.

Future improvements

Trillium Slope was placed in Conservation to protect a small area of trillium that is at the southern most extent of this plant's natural range. As such, this forested area will be managed as a Nature Preserve with no public access. Future improvements that have been identified are management of invasive exotic plant species and native vines that may harm the long-term viability of the trillium. Additionally, it is recommended that trash along 34th Street be cleaned up and that trillium seeds are collected to plant elsewhere on campus.

Maps on the following pages:
1. Aerial Photo
2. Water Resources
3. Natural Communities
4. Soils