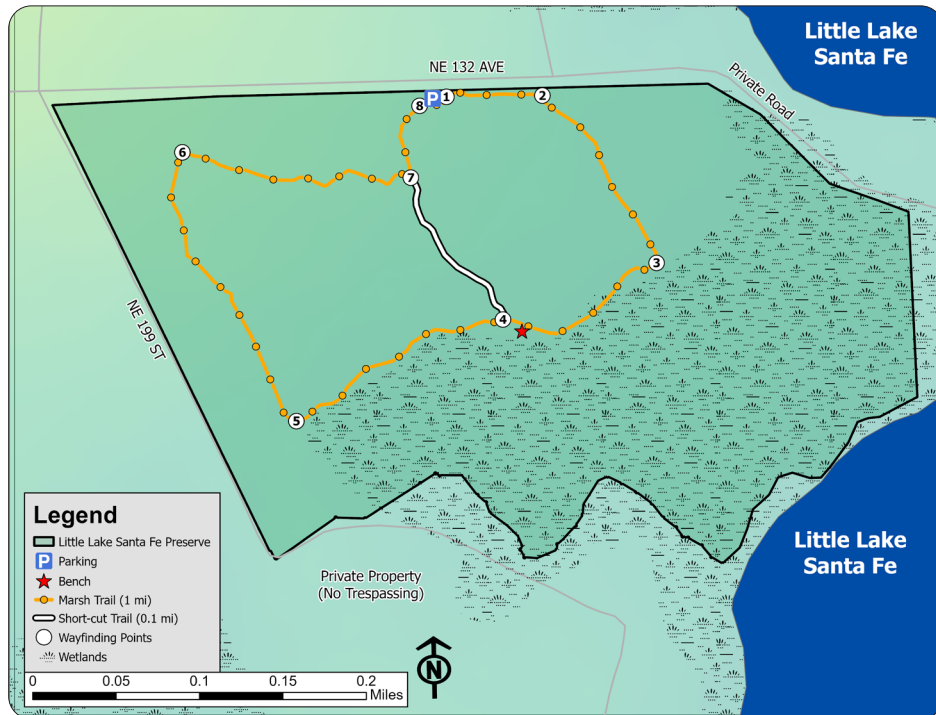


Trail Guide

- The Marsh Trail is an easy 1 mile trail blazed orange. Over this distance, visitors will travel through the uplands and along the edge of the basin marsh and basin swamp.
- The 0.1 mile Short-cut Trail, blazed white, offers a shorter route than the Marsh Trail. Look for signs at the intersections to help you navigate.
- Please stay out of areas marked as closed.



Preserve Hours:

Oct. - March 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

April - Sept. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony July 10, 2026 at 10 a.m.



20201 NE 132nd Ave., Waldo, FL

Speakers

Ken Cornell
Alachua County Commission Chair

Bradley Perry
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Director of State Lands

Andi Christman
Alachua County Land Conservation and Management
Program Manager

Alison Blakeslee
Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association

Ribbon Cutting

Hike lead by Alachua County Forever Staff

Preserve Highlights

- The 69-acre Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve was purchased by the State of Florida in 2021 with Florida Forever funding. Alachua County has assumed management of the preserve through a long-term management lease with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- The Preserve is located within the headwaters of the Santa Fe River system, including 23 acres of wetlands in the Santa Fe River Outstanding Florida Waters boundary, a designation recognizing the need for special protections due to exceptional natural attributes.

Preserve Highlights

- Approximately 28 acres of the preserve are wetland communities, notably basin marsh and basin swamp, which play important ecological functions in filtering pollutants and reducing nutrient loads from the water before it enters the lake. In addition to their role in cleaning water, they also help lessen destructive effects of storms and floods. Wetlands also provide food, water, and shelter for a variety of resident and migratory wildlife species. They serve as nurseries for young fish and amphibians and as stopping points for migratory birds.
- The 41 acres of relict pine plantation on the preserve is in the early phases of restoration. Initial efforts have been focused on treating non-native, invasive plant species. Timber harvest will be planned to return the uplands to a healthy tree density and longleaf pine will be planted as part of the restoration process. Ground-cover restoration may also occur where appropriate.
- Prescribed fire will be an important restoration tool to achieve desirable ecological conditions, mimicking fires that naturally occurred in fire-dependent ecosystems. Low-intensity fires will help maintain an open, diverse vegetation structure, encourage growth of native species, and reduce wildfire risk for the local community.
- Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve features a loop trail, the 1-mile Marsh Trail. The 0.1-mile Short-cut Trail can be used to shorten the Marsh Trail by about half. Visitors are encouraged to wear insect repellent and bring water on the trails.