



PAYNES PRAIRIE SWEETWATER PARK

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE REGIONAL UTILITIES AND THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE



Jones & Jones designed a network of public trails, structures and interpretive components that highlight the importance of a wetland reconstruction to the prairie ecosystem.

The City of Gainesville constructed the wetland ecosystem to restore the historic hydrology of Northern Paynes Prairie and purify the city's stormwater runoff before releasing it to the prairie.

The two main buildings, a visitor center inspired by traditional Cracker architecture and a more modern, solar viewing tower, reveal the process of water purification within the broad expanse of the 21,000 acre prairie preserve. All structures, trails and human interventions will sit lightly on the landscape and communicate to visitors the nature of the Paynes Prairie ecosystem, particularly the Florida alligator.

By making the prairie ecosystem hydrology visible to the adjacent community of Gainesville, the project will build support for clean water and habitat conservation.

QUICK FACTS

- 107 acres of constructed wetland
- Tertiary treatment for wastewater from the city
- Enhanced habitat for birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals
- Interpretation of north Florida water use
- Alligators showcased as indicator species for wetland health
- Restoration of historic prairie hydrology

JONES  JONES

ARCHITECTS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
PLANNERS

