

Gainesville

North – Central Florida

Gainesville

This city fortunately has some good bike lanes and trails. We mention here only the famous Gainesville – Hawthorne Trail (15 mi) and the Downtown Connector (4 mi) to this trail.

Depot Park

This Park around the old railway station is a very popular leisure park with play grounds, restaurants, parking. The downtown connector to the Gainesville – Hawthorne Trails runs just along it.



Start: NW 16 th Ave	N29 39.995 W82 19.551
Boulware Springs Park	N29 37.270 W82 18.578
End: Hawthorne Trailhead	N29 35.243 W82 5.362

Gainesville

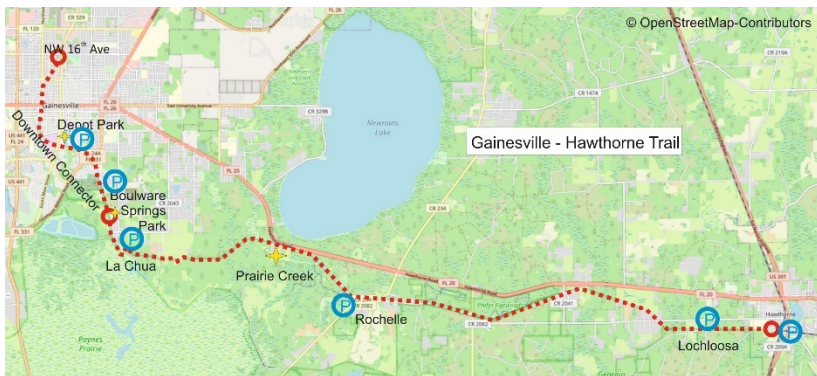
Downtown Connector, 4 mi

The Downtown Connector is a real trail, secluded from the road, but with a few smaller intersections. Along the way sometimes the old railway tracks are still visible. Despite it is a city trail, it is quite peaceful and shady.

Mi 0 Start in the north at NW 16th Ave, N29 39.995 W82 19.551.

Mi 2.3 To the left is the Depot Park, a trails runs through the park. To reach the Hawthorne Trail just continue straight.

Mi 4 Start of Gainesville – Hawthorne Trail, N29 37.270 W82 18.578.



Gainesville – Hawthorne State Trail

This beautiful trail runs from the City of Gainesville's Bouwle Springs Water Works to the town of Hawthorne. It passes through the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park and the Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area along a former Atlantic Coast Line Railroad line. Crossing a few county roads, but no major intersection. A wonderful path through true Florida nature for recreation, shady, but no food or drink along the route.

From its western endpoint, the trail soon leads to the Paynes Prairie overlook, and 2 miles from the trailhead the trail enters the preserve itself. Several trailside

Gainesville

overlooks offer views of the prairie, home to bison, wild horses, and numerous alligators. There are also several hiking trails.

Mi 0 Boulware Springs Park, N29 37.270 W82 18.578. Parking, potty, restroom, shelter, tools. Start of the trail. A mile into the trail, a side trip on the **La Chua Trail** leads to another viewing area; bicycles are not permitted on this unpaved spur. Parking, outlook, hiking path.

Mi 2 Hammock hills and curves for one mile, maybe the most exciting part of the trail.



Mi 4.8 Prairie Creek Boardwalk, N29 36.646 W82 14.849. Take a minute to see this beautiful swamp, maybe even watch interesting birds.

Mi 6.4 Rochelle Trailhead, N29 35.744 W82 13.666, parking. A Potty is a little later, after mile marker 6.5.

Mi 13.8 Lochloosa Trailhead, N29 35.259 W82 6.701 parking, bench.

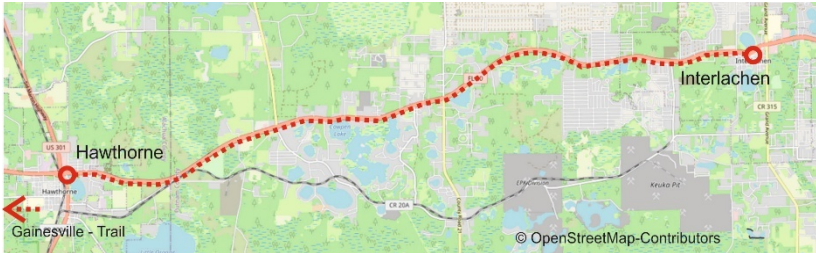
Mi 15.1 Hawthorne Trailhead, N29 35.243 W82 5.362, parking, potty.

From Hawthorne Trailhead it is just 1 mile to Florida road 20. Along this road is now a new trail to Interlachen.

Gainesville

Hawthorne – Interlachen SR 20 Trail, 13 mi

State Road 20 runs between Gainesville and Palatka. A part of it has a new bike trail. If you're looking for someplace to ride some hills, this is the trail for you. It's probably the most hilly paved trail around. Not super scenic, no shade, because it does go along the State Road, but it's a safe ride off the road. And can be reached easily from the Gainesville – Hawthorne Trail.



Mi 0 Hawthorne, N29 35.777 W82 4.986,

Mi 13 Interlachen, N29 37.735 W81 52.934.