

John Mahon Nature Park



elcome! John Mahon Nature Park opened in 2006. In collaboration with resolute efforts led by Susan Wright and residents of the Sugarfoot Neighborhood to establish a community nature park, Southeastern Integrated Medical P.L. helped make this popular community initiative a reality by donating this approximate 10-acre parcel of land to the City of Gainesville. This lovely wooded site provides the surrounding communities with public green space, passive recreation opportunities, and includes interpretive signs to educate visitors about the natural environment.



The park is a sanctuary where plants, animals, historic and cultural resources are protected by law (Chapter 18, section of the City of Gainesville Code of Ordinances)

Enjoy and protect this park by making sure

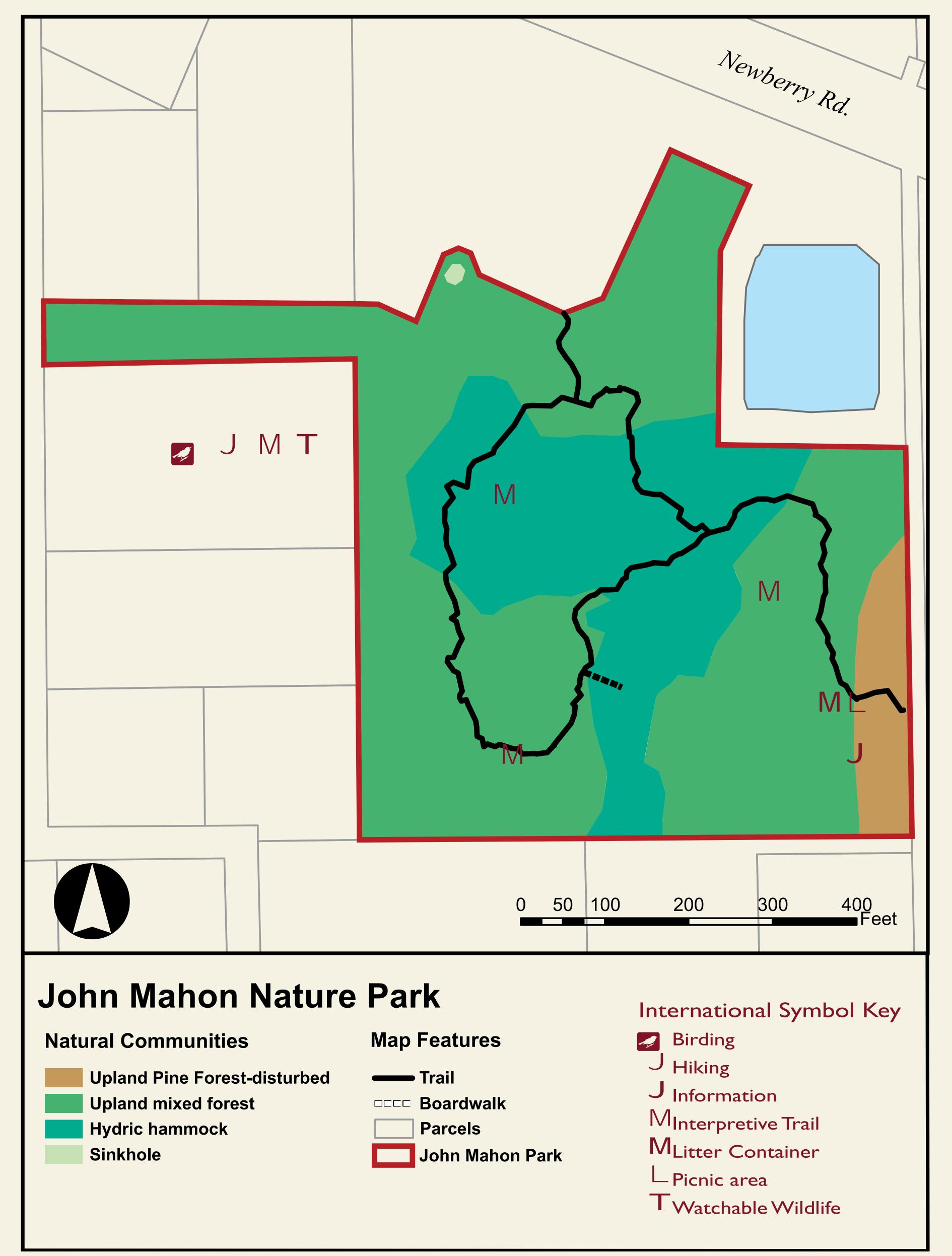
- Bicycles and motorized vehicles remain in parking areas
- Pets remain at home
- Plants, animals, and cultural resources are undisturbed
- Litter is placed in appropriate containers
- To remain on trails
- Animals are not fed, released, or removed

Alcohol and firearms are prohibited

Smoking and ground fires are prohibited due to wildfire risk

Thank you for caring for Gainesville's Natural Treasures!

Please take the time to enjoy the beauty of this natural oasis within the City of Gainesville. It serves as a living memorial to the significant contribution to the quality of life that Gainesville residents enjoy today as a result of the work of Dr. John Mahon.





Today, the John Mahon Nature Park is officially dedicated to Dr. John Mahon, who lived nearby the park, and who worked tirelessly to preserve large areas of Paynes Prairie, San Felasco Hammock, and the Hogtown Creek Greenway as natural public land. Dr. Mahon devoted a substantial part of his life to public service and was well-respected and active with naturalist organizations such as the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Alachua Conservation Trust, the Conservation Planning Coalition, Florida Defenders of the Environment, and the Florida

Natural Community - group of plants, animals, and other organisms that share an environment.

Soils, moisture, climate, and fire frequency shape the natural community. The following Natural Communities are found at John Mahon Nature Park:

Hydric (Wet) Hammock-Live oaks and palms provide dappled shade

Live oaks and palms provide dappled shade for the wildflowers and many groundcover species in the Hydric Hammock. Look for different butterflies throughout the year.



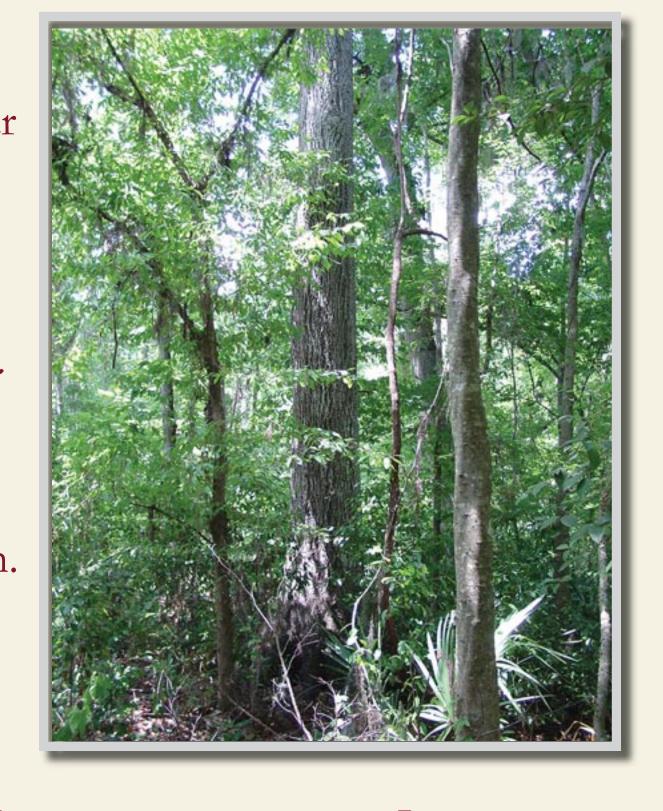


Upland Pine ForestMixed pines dominate this open
landscape with few shrubs and a
dense groundcover. Clay in the
sandy soils holds water that will
create Upland Mixed Forest when
fire is excluded.

Sinkhole- Formed by limestone collapsing due to dissolved holes underground, sinkholes typically hold water for some periods of time. Plants are similar to surrounding forest with some special plants using the shelter of the sinkhole.

Upland Mixed Forest-A dense canopy of hardwoods including magnolia and musclewood

including magnolia and musclewood shelter a shrubs and herbs like trillium. Abundant wildlife take advantage of the cool and humid sanctuary.





Historical Society.

The park is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week

For more information:

Pick up trail maps and other brochures in the rack below Visit Morningside's office (see map on back for location)

Call 352-334-2170

Log on to our website, www.natureoperations.org for calendar of programs and events

Look for the map of other Gainesville nature parks on the back of this sign

John Mahon Nature Park is accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. Please call ahead for use of our all-terrain wheelchair.