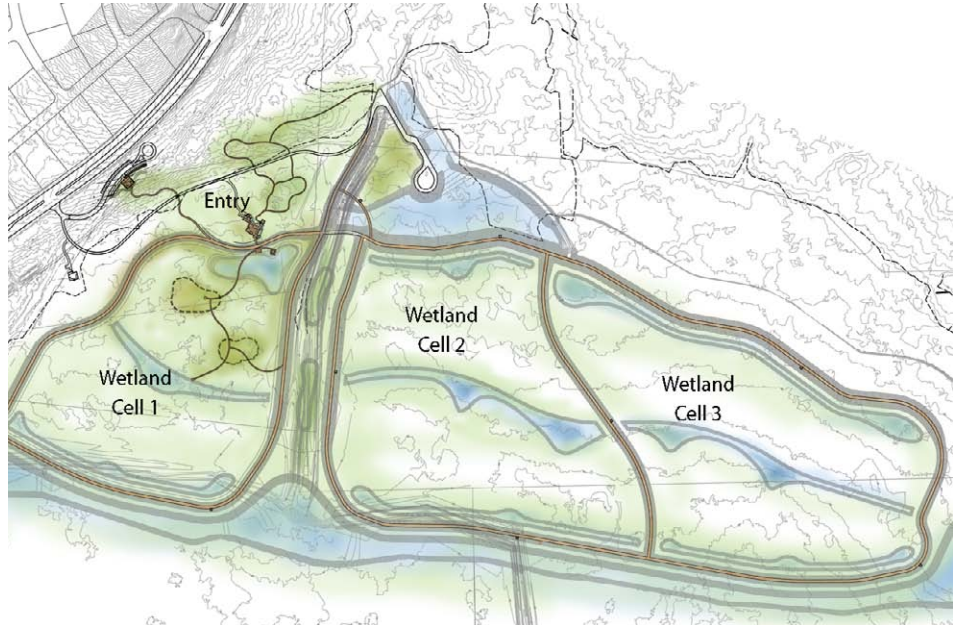
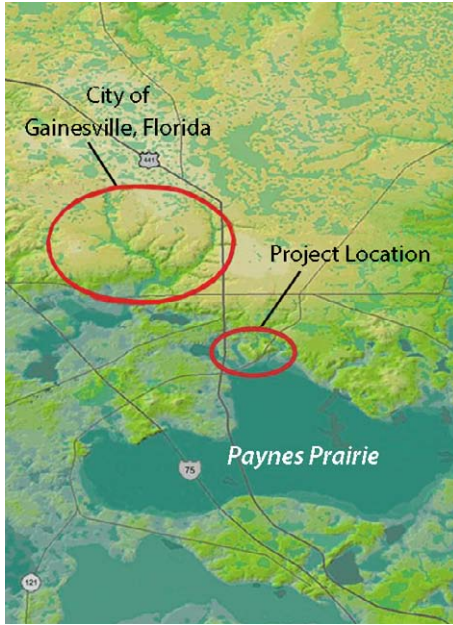




PAYNES PRAIRIE SWEETWATER BRANCH RESTORATION PUBLIC USE CONCEPT AND DESIGN

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE REGIONAL UTILITIES AND THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE



To restore the historic hydrology of northern Paynes Prairie, the City of Gainesville is constructing a large wetland ecosystem that will purify the city's stormwater runoff before releasing it as sheetflow to the prairie.

Jones & Jones is designing a network of public trails, structures and interpretive components that highlight the project's importance to the prairie ecosystem.

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 wild 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.

FACTS

- 107 acres of constructed wetland
- Tertiary treatment for wastewater from the city
- Enhanced habitat for myriad birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals

BENEFITS

- Public awareness of urban/natural interface
- Opportunities for healthy living outdoors
- Interpretation of north Florida water use
- Alligators showcased as indicator species for wetland health
- Re-establishment of historic prairie hydrology

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ARCHITECTS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
PLANNERS

