

Visit and explore the following locations around UF with your Gator. Strike a pose and snap a photo with your Family and upload them to the Gator Way app and your Family Facebook group.

OFF CAMPUS LOCATIONS TO EXPLORE:

□ SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK

📍 [325 SW Williston Road Gainesville, FL 32608](#)

Sweetwater Wetlands Park is not only a place to connect with nature, it's a way to protect our environment. The park, which consists of more than 125 acres of wetlands and ponds, was created to improve the water quality of wetlands in Paynes Prairie and the Floridan Aquifer. Now a thriving habitat, Sweetwater Wetlands Park is filled with vast numbers of plants and animals, including birds, butterflies, alligators and Florida cracker horses. At the park, you can walk more than 3.5 miles of crushed gravel trails and boardwalks, experience the lush landscape from viewing platforms, and learn about the habitat through educational signs and tours.

□ DEVIL'S MILHOPPER GEOLOGICAL PARK

📍 [874 SE 4th St, Gainesville, FL 32601](#)

In the midst of north Florida's sandy terrain and pine forests, a bowl-shaped cavity 120 feet deep leads down to a miniature rain forest. Small streams trickle down the steep slopes of the limestone sinkhole, disappearing through crevices in the ground. Lush vegetation thrives in the shade of the walls even in dry summers.

□ DEPOT PARK

📍 [874 SE 4th St, Gainesville, FL 32601](#)

Depot Park is a wonderful place to relax and go for a walk. Not only is it a beautiful area for a stroll, but it's also really close to downtown. Enjoy 32 acres of ponds, trails, and rolling green hills. The park is usually open from dawn to dusk, but the visitor center is only open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The park is also completely ADA-compliant (including the picnic area and playground). The paved gravel makes maneuvering the park a piece of cake!

□ KANAPAHA BOTANICAL GARDENS

📍 [4700 SW 58th Dr, Gainesville, FL 32608](#)

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens is comprised of 24 major collections visually accessible from a 1 1/2 mile paved walkway. These include the state's largest public display of bamboos and the largest herb garden in the Southeast. Some of Kanapaha's gardens are organized taxonomically; others demonstrate principles of ecology or natural selection.

□ CADE MUSEUM FOR CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

📍 [811 South Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601](#)

Dr. James Robert Cade, a kidney specialist at the University of Florida, was best known as the leader of the research team that invented Gatorade in 1965. In 2004, Dr. Cade and his family established The Cade Museum Foundation in an effort to design and build a 26,000 square foot museum in Gainesville, Florida. The mission of the museum is to transform communities by inspiring and equipping future inventors, entrepreneurs, and visionaries. The Cade Museum for Creativity & Invention offers interactive activities in the Creativity and Fab Labs, hands-on learning in the rotunda, Studebaker Sundays, outdoor educational activities, traveling exhibits, and much, much, more. Cade programming and events are designed to engage guests in "purposeful creativity," the kind that leads to great inventions, new businesses, and ideas that change the world.



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OFF CAMPUS LOCATIONS TO EXPLORE:

FREE FRIDAYS AT BO DIDDLEY PLAZA

📍 [111 E. University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601](#)

The region's longest-running and largest free outdoor concert series features local and regional musical talent at the newly renovated Bo Diddley Plaza. Running from May through October, our concerts under the stars showcase diverse musical acts sure to delight music lovers with classic rock, reggae, R & B, soul, ska, funk, blues, and more. Each Friday night from 8-10 features a new band that brings their original and cover tunes to our Plaza concert stage. Free Fridays—it's where to be on Friday nights!

MILL CREEK FARM

📍 [20307 NW CR 235A Alachua, FL 32615](#)

The Retirement Home For Horses at Mill Creek Farm for horses provides lifetime care for more than 100 horses, including those used in police patrol, circus horses, and those rescued by the SPCA or Humane Societies. Located on 245 acres of sprawling green pastures, The Retirement Home for Horses at Mill Creek Farm gives horses a healthy and comfortable place to live. Admissions fee: 2 carrots

LA CHUA TRAIL

📍 [4801 Camp Ranch Rd, Gainesville, FL 32641](#)

Located at the north end of Paynes Prairie, the La Chua Trail is an excellent wildlife watching site, with an elevated boardwalk and lengthy dike out to an observation tower.

PAYNE'S PRAIRIE PRESERVE STATE PARK

📍 [100 Savannah Blvd, Micanopy, FL 32667](#)

Paynes Prairie is unique in many ways. Nowhere else in Florida can visitors experience wild-roaming bison and horses. Nearly 300 species of birds also frequent the park along with alligators, deer and many other animals. The park's eight trails, including the 16-mile paved Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail, allows one to explore the park's interior and observe wildlife, while a 50-foot high observation tower provides for panoramic views.

ALFRED A. RING PARK

📍 [1801 NW 23rd Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605](#)

Gainesville's first linear park, Alfred Ring Park was a gift to the city from a University of Florida college professor who enjoyed the outdoors and donated the acreage to the county. Alfred A Ring Park is a hidden gem in the Gainesville area. When you're fed up with city life and ready to slow down and enjoy something beautiful, this park offers a great opportunity to do that. With a nice easy tread, this 1.5 mile trail provides access to plenty of scenery, often detailed by nearby informational placards that provide context to your wild surroundings. While in the area, keep your eyes and ears peeled for birds, as many different types frequent the area.

