

# Loblolly Woods Nature Park: A Counter-Proposal

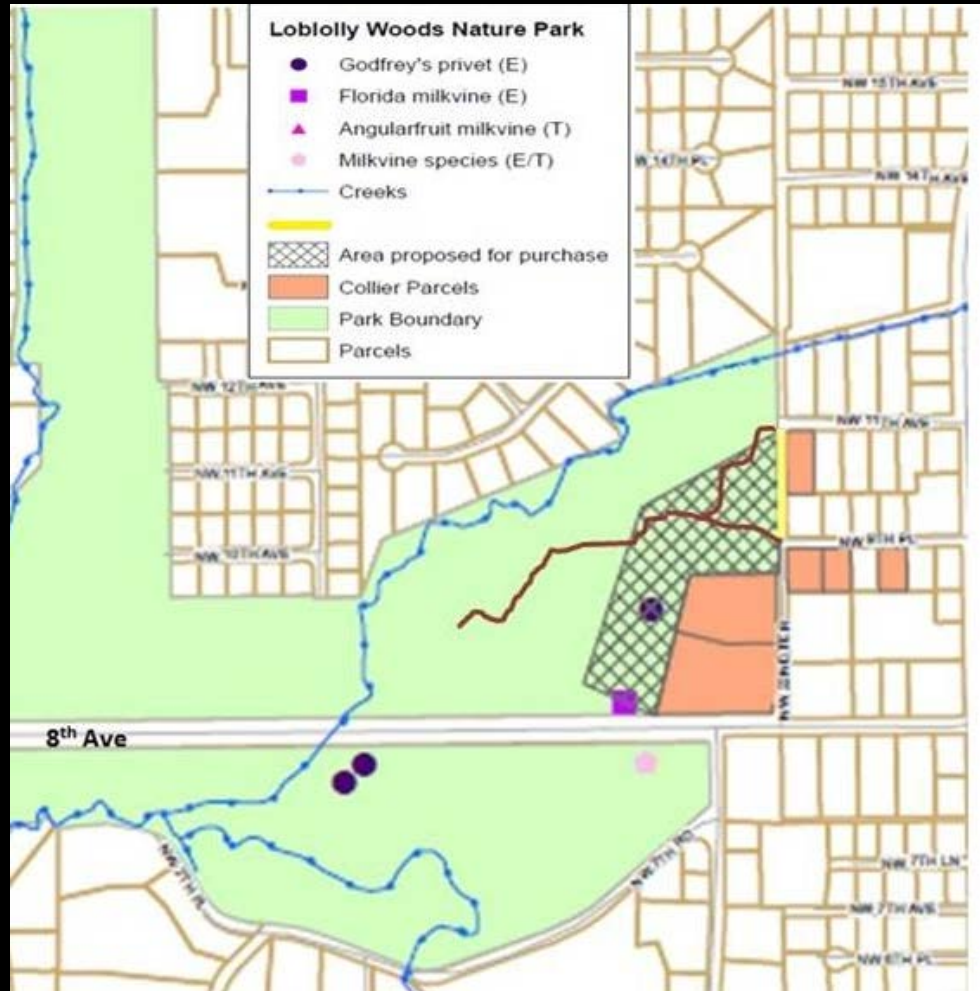


Presented by Cynthia Barnett and Karen Kainer on behalf of  
more than **100** homeowners, neighbors & citizens  
Gainesville City Commission  
September 5<sup>th</sup> 2013





# Northeast Loblolly Woods & Neighborhood Trails Impacted by Sale



# Public Value

✦ Public Value

✦ Public Trust

✦ Public Value

✦ Public Trust

✦ Public Spirit & Intent

- 🍃 Public Value
- 🍃 Public Trust
- 🍃 Public Spirit & Intent














# Ecological Value

Forest diversity in the 5 acres is higher than in the park as a whole:

- American elm
- Winged elm
- Sugarberry
- Swamp chestnut oak
- Water oak
- Live oak
- Diamond leaf oak
- Loblolly pine
- Spruce pine
- Pignut hickory
- Red maple
- Box elder
- Florida maple
- Sweetgum
- Southern magnolia
- Basswood
- Persimmon
- Red mulberry
- Southern red-cedar
- Blue beech; American hornbeam
- Eastern hophornbeam
- Cabbage palm (Sabal palmetto)
- Carolina laurel cherry
- Redbay
- Red buckeye
- Swamp dogwood

# Gainesville Comprehensive Plan

-  “Maintain the City’s commitment to preservation of the urban forest ... as a defining feature of our community.”
-  “Policies that promote the establishment of the trail network.”
-  “Recreation plans that meet the needs and desires of neighborhood residents.”



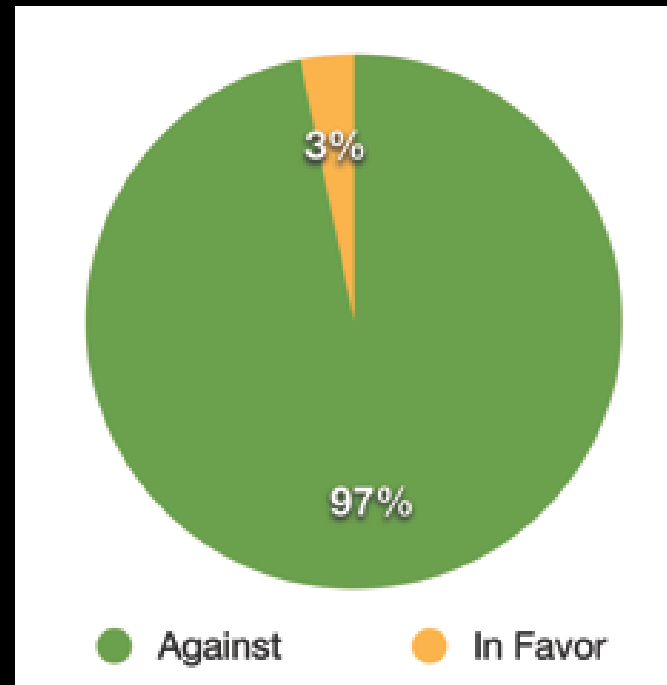
# Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Master Plan



**“Walking,  
jogging and  
nature trails”  
ranked as the  
community’s  
No. 1 priority.**



# Public Sentiment as Expressed in Letters to Commissioners:



# Rallying Point for Youth

CITY OF GAINESVILLE  
CITY COMMISSION August 18<sup>th</sup> 2013

Dear City Commission  
13.AUG.20 PM 5:25







My name is Gabrielle and I live near Loblolly Woods. Recently I have discovered the proposal to sell a 5-acre part of these woods. I propose not to sell this property. There are many reasons not to sell, but I think these two are the most prominent.

The first and foremost reason for preserving the whole of Loblolly Woods is the fulfillment of our duty to preserve nature. Our duty as a city is to preserve the wildlife we have and strive to gain more, not to sell what we have. By selling this property, we are setting a precedence that could lead to the loss of more of our precious Florida wildlife property. To protect our native species and the land on which they live, we must make our decision against selling this property.






# Formally Opposing Surplus and Sale ...

-  Alachua Audubon Society
-  Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club
-  University Park Neighborhood Association
-  Florida Native Plant Society, Paynes Prairie Chapter
-  Friends of Nature Parks
-  The Nature Centers Commission

# Our Counter-Proposal:

Move forward to place Loblolly Woods Nature Park in its entirety on the “City of Gainesville Registry of Protected Public Places.” That’s where all 160 acres belong; among city assets “worthy of the highest level of protection.” 

# Loblolly Woods Nature Park:

🍃 Public Value

🍃 Public Trust

🍃 Public Spirit & Intent



# Broad Support for Registry

Among homeowners; neighbors; schoolchildren; walkers & cyclists; retirees; and others. Just a sample:

- ✦ Community leaders including UF First Lady **Chris Machen**
- ✦ Small-business owners including **Bubba & Ingrid Scales**
- ✦ Springs advocates including nature photographer **John Moran**
- ✦ Campus leaders including Dean of Agriculture **Dr. Teri Balsler**
- ✦ Biologists & foresters including **Dr. Michael Andreu**
- ✦ Cultural leaders including artist **Annie Pais**
- ✦ Former Mayors including **Bruce Delaney**

# Thank you!

