

City of Gainesville Sensitive Lands Summary

Jurecko Property (10.5 acres)
Address: NW 45th Ave
Parcel(s): 07901-000-000; 07902-001-000

Summary based on site visits by City staff and staff report by Alachua County Forever.

Natural communities (ground-truthed)

Mesic Flatwoods: No evidence of recent fire, but in moderately good condition. Longleaf and Slash pine are the dominant canopy species, with saw palmetto and various other shrubs but relatively little herbaceous component. Fuel accumulations are relatively low and fire could be reintroduced to this community.

Seepage Stream: good to very good condition. Hogtown Creek and three small tributaries pass through the property. Relatively little bank erosion seems to be occurring, particularly on the tributaries.

Blackwater Stream: An intermittent stream passing through the southern parcel may be best characterized as a blackwater stream. In excellent condition with little indication of erosion or other issues.

Spring: Good condition. A small spring flows into Hogtown Creek on the property, probably from a surficial aquifer.

Slope Forest: In good condition. Canopy consists of water oak, live oak, pignut hickory, basswood, sweetgum, and other hardwoods, with a variety of native shrubs, vines, and herbs. *Ardisia crenata* is present, but at relatively low density.

Seepage Slope: Very good condition. A high diversity of native plant species present, including a very large population of native azaleas.

Basin Swamp: Very good condition. Dominated by Swamp tupelo, Swamp chestnut oak, red maple, and sweetbay magnolia, with a continuous ground layer of ferns, sedges, and lizard's tail. Surrounds the blackwater stream. Some invasive species are spreading into this community from the south and west.

Upland Pine Forest: Fair condition. Formerly a homesite, but still has mature canopy trees of several relatively uncommon species (Southern red oak, mockernut hickory). Native groundcover is absent and numerous non-native horticultural species persist.

Listed species

Matelea gonocarpus and *Athyrium filix-femina* (Threatened) are found on the property. FNAI's element occurrence database does not list other documented rare species in the vicinity. Additional species are likely to occur, but a comprehensive survey has not been conducted.

Connectivity/Access

These parcels adjoin Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park, separated only by NW 19th St., an unpaved private road. An existing trail through the property connects NW 19th St. to the Sorrento neighborhood to the Northwest.

Landscape issues

This property would protect a wide variety of water features. The south bank of Hogtown Creek with extensive seepage areas, three tributaries and a spring that feed the creek, and a basin swamp all occur on this property, which is directly upstream from the City's Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park. Protection of these resources and the uplands surrounding them would provide significant protection for surface waters in the park and for the entire Hogtown Creek system.

Other considerations

Developable portions of this property are all upslope from high-quality wetlands and creeks. Development in these areas would likely disrupt natural seepage processes, as well as causing increased erosion of the slopes and creek banks.