

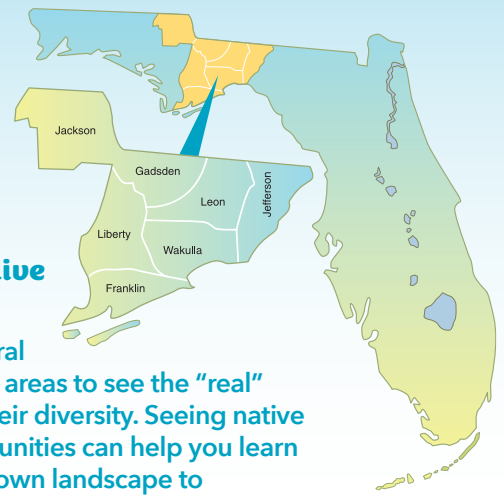


Good Citizen Guide to Natural Florida

Eastern Panhandle Region

Learn about where you live

Florida's Eastern Panhandle Region has a variety of natural areas to discover. Visit these areas to see the "real" Florida and to appreciate their diversity. Seeing native plants in their natural communities can help you learn about what to plant in your own landscape to make your yard more sustainable.



Discover some of the Region's native plant communities



Sandhill

Sandhills are open stands of longleaf pine with a wiregrass ground layer and scattered small oak trees that lose their leaves in winter. They occur on high dry sandy sites and depend on frequent fire to maintain their savanna-like structure.

Where to visit Sandhill

- Leon Sinks Geological Area, Munson Hills mountain bike trail and Trout Pond trailhead, Apalachicola National Forest (Leon County)
- Otter Lake Recreation Area, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Wakulla County)
- Torreya State Park, main trail (Liberty County)



Upland Mixed Woodland

Upland mixed woodland grows on dry upland sites with loamy clay soils and has an open canopy of pines, oaks and hickories. There is a diverse ground layer composed of Indiangrasses plus many herbs in the legume and sunflower families.

Where to visit Upland Mixed Woodland

- Apalachee Wildlife Management Area (Jackson County) *
- Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park, Gate A, Tallahassee (Leon County)
- Miccosukee Greenway Trail, Crump Road parking area, Tallahassee (Leon County)
- Three Rivers State Park (Jackson County) *



Upland Hardwood Forest

Upland hardwood forest, found on rich soils of ravine slopes or over shallow limestone, has a diverse canopy that features northern species such as beech and white ash mingling with southern broadleaf evergreen species such as magnolia and live oak.

Where to visit Upland Hardwood Forest

- Bear Creek Educational Forest (Gadsden County)
- Garden of Eden Trail, Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (Liberty County)
- Wakulla Springs State Park (Wakulla County)



Pine Flatwoods and Wet Prairie

With a longleaf pine canopy and wiregrass ground layer similar to sandhill habitat and also dependent on fire, pine flatwoods is found in lower areas with the water table nearer the surface. It may have inclusions of wet prairie harboring pitcher plants.

Where to visit Pine Flatwoods and Wet Prairie

- Apalachicola National Forest, in the vicinity of the junction of SR 65 and CR 379 (Liberty County)
- Ochlockonee River State Park (Wakulla County)
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Wakulla County)



Beach Dune and Scrub

The beach dune community is comprised mainly of grasses: sea oats on the first dune above the beach and Gulf bluestem behind it. Inland, older dunes support scrub, comprised of three species of evergreen scrub oak, plus woody goldenrod and Florida rosemary.

Where to visit Beach Dune and Scrub

- Bald Point State Park (Franklin County)
- St. George Island State Park (Franklin County)
- Tate's Hell State Forest, High Bluff Coastal Trail (Franklin County)

**Note: Forest canopy of the two Jackson County parks was destroyed by Hurricane Michael in 2018*



Hydric Hammock

Hydric hammock is a moist, shady hardwood forest of swamp laurel oak, live oak, sweetbay and cabbage palm. It grows on rich soils over limestone fringing the salt marshes that stretch along the coast east of the Ochlockonee River.

Where to visit Hydric Hammock

- Aucilla Wildlife Management Area (Jefferson County)
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Wakulla County)
- Wacissa Springs Public Boat Ramp (Jefferson County)



Salt Marsh

Salt marsh is a vast mosaic of color. It ranges from the light tan sawgrass in brackish areas, to gray black rush in the salty main body of the marsh. Bright green ribbons of cordgrass are found along the tidal creeks.

Where to visit Salt Marsh

- Bald Point State Park (Franklin County)
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Wakulla County)

Easy to grow native plants for home landscapes in the Eastern Panhandle Region



Bring the beauty of native plants home

Florida's Eastern Panhandle Region has many beautiful native plant communities. In addition to visiting them, you can bring a bit of natural Florida to your landscape by planting natives. Fortunately there are many options to choose from and many plants are adaptable to a wide range of conditions. Plant selection and planting advice is available from Florida Native Plant Society chapters as well as local extension agents and nurseries. Here are just a few suggestions for plants to consider for home gardens and landscapes.

Shady hammock garden



Canopy:

- (1) *Quercus virginiana* (live oak)
- (2) *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern magnolia)

Midstory/shrub:

- (3) *Hydrangea quercifolia* (oakleaf hydrangea)
- (4) *Ilex cassine* var. *cassine* (Dahoon holly)

Ground cover/herbs:

- (5) *Packera aurea* (butterweed)
- (6) *Spigelia marilandica* (woodland pinkroot)

Pine flatwoods garden

Canopy Trees:

- (1) *Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine)

Midstory/shrub:

- (2) *Rhododendron canescens* (sweet pinxter azalea)
- (3) *Prunus umbellata* (flatwoods plum)
- (4) *Chionanthus virginicus* (fringe tree)

Ground cover:

- (5) *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (Muhly grass)
- (6) *Baptisia alba* (white wild indigo)



Pollinator garden

- (1) *Lonicera sempervirens* (coral honeysuckle)
- (2) *Monarda punctata* (bee balm)
- (3) *Helianthus angustifolius* (narrowleaf sunflower)
- (4) *Coreopsis lanceolata* (lanceleaf tickseed)
- (5) *Passiflora incarnata* (passionflower)
- (6) *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed)



The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society is to preserve, conserve and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Florida Native Plant Society

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