



Trail & Nature Guide



Introduction

Preserving Special Places for Future Generations

The St. Joe Company's philosophy is to keep the culture and characteristics of the land we develop intact. JOE also works closely with state regulators and environmentalists to identify new, progressive ways to protect the best Florida has to offer.

Consistent with this philosophy, the planning, conservation and protection of SouthWood is a priority. Wildlife biologists ensure mitigation efforts are met.

The land now called SouthWood has been influenced by a variety of cultures, each shaping and contributing to its natural beauty. The following pages highlight the history of the SouthWood site and the steps being taken to ensure its preservation for the enjoyment of future generations.

Front porches help create a sense of community by connecting neighbors.



In the heart of the community is a 123-acre park and lake.

The purpose of this booklet is to:

- provide a history of SouthWood;
- identify the four habitat preserves managed within the SouthWood community for the Southeastern American kestrel and Sherman's fox squirrel;
- recommend ways homeowners can help protect the four habitat preserves;
- provide information on some of the wildlife you might see in Southwood; and
- identify trails throughout the community.



History of the SouthWood Site

Evidence suggests that the land comprising the SouthWood community was first used by the Apalachee Indians in the pre-Colombian period. Later, the Spanish established missions in the vicinity and are believed to have farmed here before other European settlers began to develop the site for agricultural purposes. By 1860, most of the land was part of a few large plantations or farms producing cotton, corn, dairy products and wool.



Farming continued into the 20th century, with livestock and the lumber and turpentine industries coming after 1900. A railroad operated on the current Tram Road right-of-way between 1897 and 1933 before it was abandoned and the tracks removed. From 1948 to 1952, St. Joe Paper Company acquired 9,600 acres that included what is now SouthWood. Small farms were consolidated and converted into a cattle ranch and timber land, which remain the primary uses for large sections of the land even today. Construction of the SouthWood community began in the fall of 2000.

Historic Cultural Resources

St. Joe takes great care in assessing and protecting cultural resources that may be discovered while developing SouthWood. New phases of development are reviewed by a qualified professional archeologist.

Arrowheads found at one of SouthWood's archaeological sites.



Evidence suggests that the land comprising SouthWood has been used for farming for hundreds of years.

Apalachee Indian and Mission Period Spanish artifacts dating back to 1250 have been found. One of these sites also contains the remains of at least one Spanish structure, which may have been part of the mission of San Martin de Tomole.



Shards of pottery found at one of SouthWood's archaeological sites.

This mission appears to have been constructed between 1647 and 1655. It was located within an existing Apalachee village, as were most Spanish missions. According to records, the mission of San Martin de Tomole had some 700 people associated with it.

Every cultural period known in Northwest Florida, from the Early Archaic to the present, is represented at SouthWood. The SouthWood House and its associated cemetery, along with the Connie Copeland African-American Cemetery represent historic cultural resources associated with the Florida Territorial Period, the Civil War Period, and the forest industry that developed in the early 1900s.

The SouthWood House

George T. Ward inherited the land now known as SouthWood from his father, George W. Ward. He married Sarah Jane Chaires, daughter of Benjamin Chaires, a wealthy farmer, banker and land barron. She inherited properties from her father that were later incorporated into SouthWood.

The original house at SouthWood burned down prior to 1880; however, some of the bricks in the original house remained intact and are now in use in the foundation of the present SouthWood house. The present house was built about 1865 on the Northeast corner of Adams and Pensacola streets in downtown Tallahassee.



The original Henderson home in downtown Tallahassee before it was moved to SouthWood.



The SouthWood House today.

Mattie Ward Henderson inherited the land from her parents Sarah Jane and George T. Ward. In 1939, Mattie's grandson, George Henderson, moved the family home from downtown Tallahassee to the foundation of the original SouthWood house. Henderson took care to mark every piece of wood in each room during the disassembly and moving process so that the wood was precisely replaced in the present house. The six Ionic columns you see in the present house were added after the house was moved to its current location.

SouthWood's Habitat Preserves



Many families living in SouthWood represent multiple generations.

Throughout SouthWood's 3,300 acres, four habitat preserves are managed to provide suitable habitat for the Sherman's fox squirrel and the Southeastern American kestrel, the smallest member of the falcon family. The preserves feature lakes, forested and herbaceous wetlands, woodlands and open pasture areas. These areas are not impacted by stormwater facilities, the golf course or other green space land uses. To ensure that these natural treasures are preserved long term, part of the funds collected by the Capital Region Community Development District are used to manage and maintain these habitats. *(Please see page 7 for a map to locate the habitat preserves.)*

The preserve areas are maintained in a variety of ways, including:

- Mowing when necessary because fox squirrels like shorter grass so they can see predators;
- Providing nesting boxes to encourage use by kestrels;
- Controlling invasive or exotic vegetation as defined by the Florida Committee on Invasive Plants; supplemental planting of desirable vegetation; and the replanting of grass to

provide buffers, forage, refuge or other beneficial functions.

- Preserving, if appropriate, dead trees or "snags" to serve as bird perches and feeding areas; however, if the dead trees pose a threat to human safety or pose liability concerns, we remove them. The management of these areas also benefits many other wildlife species.

Homeowner Responsibilities

Homeowners play an important role in the management of the preserves. *Please do not:*

- dump yard clippings or plant vegetation in preserve areas;
- mow, trim or clear vegetation in preserve areas;
- disturb kestrel boxes;
- touch or capture the wildlife species; or
- introduce fish into the lakes and ponds.

If we all work together, we can ensure that the historical, cultural and natural resources entrusted to those who call SouthWood home can be appreciated and enjoyed for generations to come.

SouthWood's Habitat Preserves

In addition to the four habitat preserves, two mitigation areas are managed around the SouthWood community — Shepherd's Branch, which is in the southeast corner of SouthWood, and Oak Ridge, which is offsite approximately three miles southwest of SouthWood. The goals of these two mitigation areas are two-fold:

- Maintain or enhance native plant and animal species, their communities, and the ecological processes that sustain them; and
- Reduce the risk of wildfires. Methods used to manage the vegetation in these areas include: controlled burning, mechanical cutting and removal, and applying herbicide.

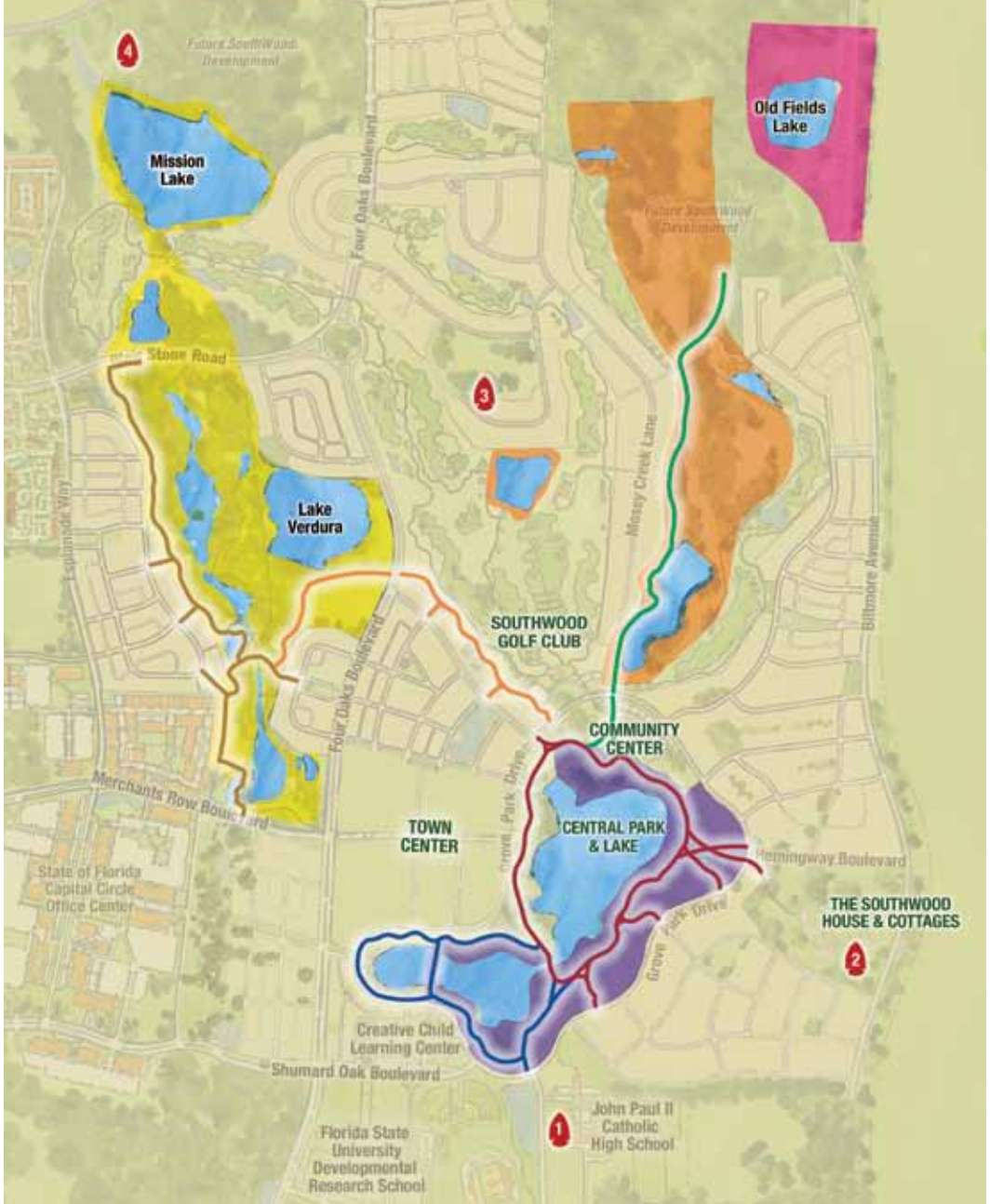


Biologist placing a kestrel box in Central Park.



Central Park or one of the many pocket parks is the perfect spot for a picnic.

TRAILS, HABITATS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES



LEGEND

HABITAT PRESERVES

- NORTH PARK PRESERVE
- EASTERN PRESERVE
- WESTERN PRESERVE
- CENTRAL PARK PRESERVE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

- 1 AFRICAN-AMERICAN CEMETERY
- 2 WARD FAMILY CEMETERY
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVE
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVE

NATURE TRAILS

- MOSSY CREEK TRAIL
.7 miles
- SOUTH LAKE TRAIL
.9 miles
- FOUR OAKS CONNECTOR TRAIL
.4 miles
- NORTH LAKE TRAIL
1.2 miles
- OVERLOOK TRAIL
.9 miles

Plantlife



Panhandle Golden Aster

This perennial plant can be found in sandy oak and pine woods. A short plant with a zigzag stem, it blooms in the summer and fall, producing yellow flowers.

WHERE? *throughout SouthWood*

Button Bush

A large woody shrub with showy, fragrant ball-shaped flower heads, the button bush grows fastest in moist soil near a pond, but often grows in shallow standing water. The seeds are eaten by numerous water birds and the fragrant flowers are a favorite nectar source for butterflies.

WHERE? *SouthWood's wetland edges, lakes & ponds*



Dogwood

A small, flowering tree noted for its spectacular show of blooms in the spring, dogwoods prefer moist, well-drained fertile soil, in partial sunlight. Dogwood blooms can be white, pink or red. Easily identified by

their bark, which is broken up into small squares, the dogwood is the official flowering tree of the City of Tallahassee.

WHERE? *throughout SouthWood*

Live Oak

Majestic, moss-draped live oaks reach heights of 40 to 50 feet with trunk diameters of 3 to 4 feet and frequently achieve ages greater than 200 years. Live oaks, unlike most other oaks, shed their leaves after the following year's leaves have appeared. The Live Oak is the official shade tree of the City of Tallahassee.

WHERE? *throughout SouthWood*



Shumard Oak

This tree's leaf is in the SouthWood logo. Numerous species of songbirds, wild turkey, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, squirrels, and other mammals eat this oak's acorns.

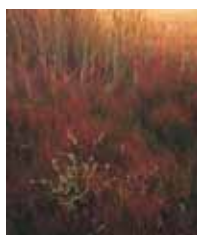
The leaves remain green into the fall and then turn a deep, red orange.

WHERE? *SouthWood's forests and wooded areas*

Slash Pine

A common pine tree throughout Florida, the slash pine was once a primary species for producing turpentine and rosins used for many purposes. While this industry has all but disappeared in Florida, slash pines with "cat-face" scars left from sap harvesting can still be found in many old stands.

WHERE? *throughout SouthWood*



Smartweed

Most smartweeds are warm-season annuals. Their flower bracts range from pure white to dark pink, with some forms displaying multiple colors. Smartweed thrives where water and sunshine are abundant.

WHERE? *SouthWood's wetland edges, lakes & ponds*

Spanish Moss

Seen hanging from live oaks, please use caution as this "moss" is a shelter for creatures such as chiggers, rat snakes, and bats. Birds and squirrels also use spanish moss to build or conceal their nests. Spanish moss is actually not moss, but most closely related to the pineapple plant.

WHERE? *throughout SouthWood*





Bald Eagle

Adults have a gleaming white head and tail, which contrasts against their dark body feathers.

WHERE? *SouthWood's lakes*

Bobwhite Quail

Requiring habitat with a mixture of woodlands, brush, grass, and croplands, quail are social birds that gather in groups called "coveys." As many as 10 to 30 birds may form a covey in which they forage and roost closely together. They can be heard calling "bobwhite" – hence the name.

WHERE? *on edges of SouthWood golf course*



Eastern Bluebird

Found in open woodlands, clearings, and farmlands, the Eastern Bluebird is common throughout northern Florida. These birds' eggs are blue. Their nests are made from grass, pine needles, twigs, and feathers and can be found in large tree stumps and woodpecker-excavated holes. They feed on insects, fruit, earthworms, and berries.

WHERE? *all around SouthWood*

Egrets, Herons & Ibis



Voracious hunters, these birds are most often seen in their classic hunting stance: standing in shallow water quietly watching for fish, frogs, or crayfish to swim by.

WHERE? *SouthWood's lakes and marshes*



Blue Heron



Southeastern American Kestrel

Smallest and most common of falcons, the kestrel is identified by a russet back and tail feathers and double black stripes on a white face. It eats insects, small reptiles, rodents and small birds.

SouthWood is protecting the kestrel habitat in our managed preserves.

WHERE? *SouthWood's lakes*

Waterfowl/Ducks

The most common species is the wood duck; however, others include the ring-necked duck, teal, shovlers, and scaup. Ducks can be seen feeding on seeds of aquatic plants as well as snails and insects. **WHERE?** *SouthWood's lakes*



Wood Duck



Wood Stork

One of Florida's largest wading birds and the only stork found in the United States, the wood stork has a white body, a short black tail, and black feathers bordering the wings.

WHERE? *SouthWood's lakes*

Woodpeckers

Six species of woodpeckers breed in Florida. The five that can be seen at SouthWood are: downy, hairy, red-headed, red-bellied, and pileated woodpeckers. All excavate cavities in trees and feed on insects gleaned from under the bark of trees.

WHERE? *around SouthWood's dead trees, called "snags"*



Pileated Woodpecker

KEY TO SEASONAL SIGHTINGS

These seasonal indicators are when you are most likely to see these species. However, you may see them other times throughout the year.



Winter



Spring



Summer



Fall



Armadillo

The nine-banded armadillo is covered with armored plates and has poor eyesight. Although not native, armadillos are now common throughout Florida. Often feeding at night, they eat

insects, or other invertebrates and some plants.

WHERE? Yards, flower beds and SouthWood's preserve areas

Coyote

Once strictly a western species, coyotes are now seen throughout the eastern United States. They are most numerous in northern Florida, but their numbers appear to be increasing statewide. They are mainly nocturnal.

WHERE? Shepherd's Branch, east side of Biltmore Ave.



Grey Fox

Often with a bit of red hair, the grey fox may be confused with the red fox. The grey fox is essentially a nocturnal animal with a yapping bark. It can

scramble-up a tree quickly and is the only member of the dog family capable of climbing.

WHERE? all preserve areas, Shepherd's Branch

Raccoon

Common throughout Florida, raccoons occur anywhere there are trees. They are omnivorous and feed on fruits, plant material, eggs, crustaceans, small animals, and garbage. Raccoons usually become active in the late afternoon and throughout the night.

WHERE? wetland and preserve areas.

Please do not leave food out for them!



Squirrels

Florida is home to three species of squirrels: the eastern gray squirrel, the fox squirrel, and the southern flying squirrel, all of whom call SouthWood home. **WHERE?** all around SouthWood



SouthWood is protecting Sherman's Fox Squirrel in our managed preserves.



Sherman's Fox Squirrel

The largest tree squirrel in the Western Hemisphere, this animal can be found in pine flat woods and open pine-oak forests. They can be a variety of colors ranging from rusty orange to gold, black, and grey. The ones seen at SouthWood are black and grey. They feed on pine seeds during the summer and acorns the remainder of the year.

WHERE? SouthWood Golf Course, Central Park Lake



White-tailed Deer

The white coloring on the underside of this deer's tail, makes it one of the best known and most easily recognized mammals. This deer feeds mostly on leaves, stems, and shoots and can weigh from 100-225

pounds. If frightened, the deer raises its tail, exposing the white underneath to alert other deer there is danger.

WHERE? around golf course fringes and woodland edges

Bats

Bats, the only flying mammal, eat their body weight in insects every night. Contrary to popular belief, they are not blind but rely on a highly developed navigation and prey-detection system called echolocation. Most bats can be found in forests, forest edges, and hedgerows.

WHERE? all around SouthWood and near water areas



Bluegill Bream

Found naturally throughout Florida, bluegills prefer quiet, weedy waters where they can hide and feed. They inhabit lakes and ponds, slow-flowing rivers and streams with sand, mud, or gravel bottoms, near aquatic vegetation.



WHERE? Central Park Lake, Lake Verdura, Mission Lake

Brown Bullhead Catfish

Catfish are solitary and spend most of their time in deep water near cover such as log jams or fallen trees. They are predatory fish and will consume bass, bream, shad, crayfish and often feed on other catfish.



WHERE? Central Park Lake, Lake Verdura, Mission Lake

Dollar Sunfish

Like its name indicates, this fish is small and colorful. Growing to no longer than 5 inches, the fish has a bluish hue whose color can vary from location to location. Found mostly in swamps, lakes, and small ponds, it feeds on small fish and insects.



WHERE? Central Park Lake, Lake Verdura, Mission Lake

Golden Shiners

Common in lakes and ponds, golden shiners have greenish-olive backs and sides with a silvery and golden luster. They like to feed on small insects, tiny mollusks, small fishes and algae and are often used as bait fish.



WHERE? Central Park Lake, Lake Verdura, Mission Lake

Largemouth Bass

One of America's most-prized gamefish, the Florida largemouth bass seems to grow to unusually large size in Florida waters. It can reach a length of more than 20 inches and weigh more than 15 pounds.

This black bass is an elongated sunfish, whose distinguishing feature, aside from its exceptionally large mouth, is a deep notch in the dorsal fin. Largemouth bass usually live in quiet waters that contain bountiful vegetation. The largemouth bass is Florida's official freshwater fish.



WHERE? Central Park Lake, Lake Verdura, Mission Lake

Homeowners of all ages enjoy the Art of Living's Fishing Derby!



Reptiles



Listed as Endangered Species



American Alligator

The length of an alligator may be deduced by estimating the length of its snout — each inch from the tip of the snout to the eyes, equals about one foot in length. Often feeding at

night, alligators eat turtles, snakes, birds, and small mammals.

WHERE? *sometimes in the shallow lakes and ponds at SouthWood. Please do not feed!*



Gopher Tortoise

The gopher tortoise occurs throughout Florida but prefers sandy, well-drained upland areas. It eats grasses, bean-family plants, fruits, and grass-like plants of the sunflower family. They excavate burrows averaging 15 feet in length. In Florida, the gopher tortoise is a species of special concern, and it is illegal to take, possess, transport, or sell gopher tortoises or their eggs. *Many management strategies are being implemented at SouthWood to preserve the gopher tortoise and its habitat.*



WHERE? *Shepherd's Branch*



Indigo Snake

Widespread throughout the state, indigo snakes enjoy mainly upland sand hills for their habitat. With its populations in many parts of Florida declining, the snake is listed as a 'Threatened Species' by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Because it seeks refuge in gopher tortoise burrows, in some parts of Florida the indigo snake is referred to as the 'gopher snake'.

WHERE? *Shepherd's Branch*



Skins, Lizards & Anoles

Skins are smooth, shiny active lizards that at first glance resemble small snakes. To escape from predators, skins have tails that break off easily. Fence lizards are common at

SouthWood and can be identified by the pointed scales on their backs. They are pale or grayish brown with dark band on each side. Most people call anoles – the most commonly seen lizards in Florida – “chameleons” due to the green anole’s ability to change color; however, anoles are only distantly related to the chameleon, and in fact, are more closely related to the iguana.

WHERE? *throughout SouthWood*

Turtles

In Florida, a variety of water turtles are often called “cooters” or “basking turtles.” Often seen basking in the sun on top of each other, turtles are herbivorous, dining on aquatic leafy vegetation and algae.



WHERE? *SouthWood's lakes and ponds*



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NYSE:
JOE