

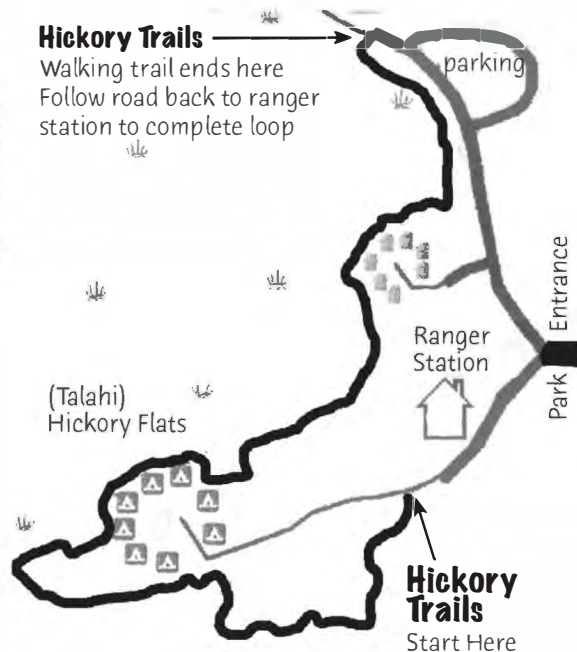
1.

LOOK for the twin trees with red blanket lichen at the start of the trail.

Isn't it amazing that the **lobolly pine** (*Pinus taeda*) and **southern magnolia** (*Magnolia grandiflora*) trees not only survive, but also appear to be thriving grafted together as they are? **Red blanket lichen** (*Chiodecton/Herpothallon sanguineum*) grows on old growth trees in shaded forests on top of moss and other decaying matter. You may also notice the grape vines growing up the twins. You can tell the difference between **muscadine grape vines** (*Vitis rotundifolia*) and bunching grape vines by the length of separation between the leaves. Muscadine grape leaves are closer together while bunching grapes are farther apart.



Developed as a Final Project for
The Florida Master Naturalist Program
Upland Habitats Module
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Camp Chowenwaw Park

1517 Ball Road
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
904-529-8058

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The funding to acquire Camp Chowenwaw Park was provided by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners and Florida Communities Trust using Florida Forever funds. The site was acquired in 2006 and is managed as a conservation, historic preservation, and outdoor recreation area.

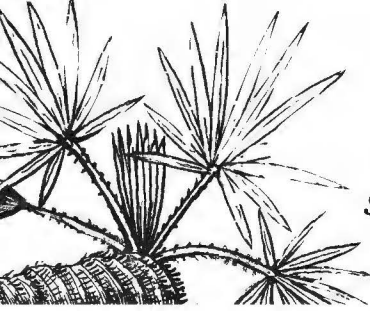


Hickory Trails Scavenger Hike

Trail Length: approximately 1 mile
Difficulty Level: easy

Camp Chowenwaw Park

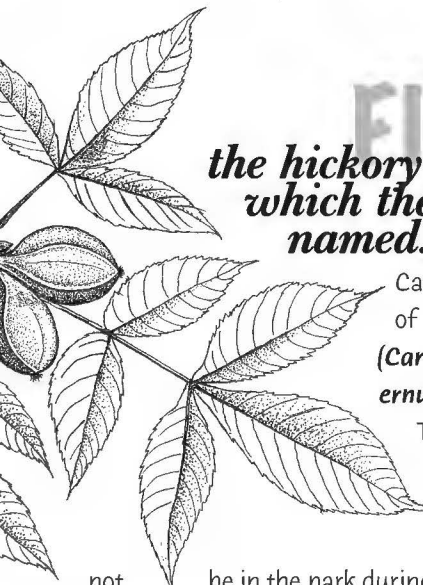
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2.

the row of saw palmettos.

Like many Florida forests, this trail is heavily populated with **saw palmettos (Serenoa repens)** since they survive in very diverse growing conditions. They are easy to differentiate from young cabbage palms by their serrated stems, hence 'saw'. Any one of the specimens you're passing could be hundreds of years old, as these plants have exceedingly low natural mortality and a slow growth rate. Honey bees produce a delicious honey from saw palmettos, and the fruit that ultimately develops feeds many animals. Humans also harvest the fruit to help treat prostate conditions.



3.

the hickory tree in which the trail is named.

Can you identify the type of hickory tree – a **Pignut (Carya glabra)** or **Mockernut (Carya tomentosa)**?

The two are fairly easy to differentiate by their leaves, nuts, and height, but you may

not be in the park during the right time of year and how long is your measuring stick? So, look at the bark. Pignut bark is gray and deeply furrowed between narrow, interlacing ridges. Mockernut is also gray, but with shallow and narrow ridges and furrows in a diamond-like pattern.

4.

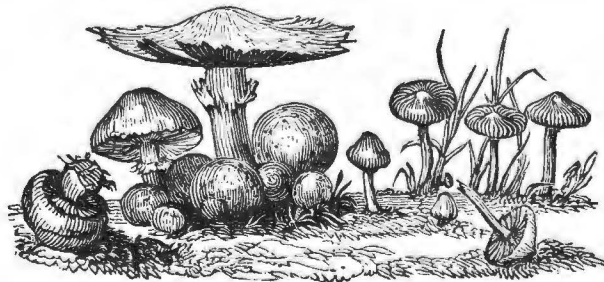
two trees covered with fungi on the right.

Do you notice that the fungi look like oysters, and did you know it only grows on dead trees? These mushrooms are in fact called '**oyster**' mushrooms (**Pleurotus ostreatus**), providing the world with hundreds of varieties. They are saprobic, meaning they grow in shelf-like clusters as you can see in this example. The mushrooms you see are the fruiting bodies of the fungi – the equivalent of the apple, not the tree.

5.

a rotting log with mushrooms growing on it.

It's very common to find fallen trees in forests – they help provide new space, nutrients, and light to young trees and undergrowth. It's even more common to find this dead organic matter being decomposed by all sorts of fungi. They, along with many other organisms like earthworms, play an important part in breaking down the forest floor. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to walk this trail, because the Earth would be a mountain of dead plants, trees, and animals.



6.

the cinnamon ferns next to a wooden foot bridge.

Cinnamon ferns (Osmunda cinnamomea) grow in low wetlands as they are found here at Camp Chowenwaw Park. They are easy to identify with their tall cinnamon-brown woolly-haired stalks. But, don't try to eat them; they don't taste anything like cinnamon.

7.

the seven-trunk live oak tree on the left.

We hope you agree that this **live oak (Quercus virginiana)** is fascinating. Unfortunately, the multiple trunk-lets have caused a reservoir for water to develop in the middle of the tree. This may eventually shorten the life of this interesting tree. For now though, it is the home of a thriving plant and animal community. **Eastern gray squirrels (Sciurus carolinensis)** and **southern flying squirrels (Glaucomys volans)** find this tree to be a more than adequate home and supply of acorns. Additionally, many vines have found an easy trellis – **resurrection fern (Polypodium polypodioides)**, **grape vine (Vitis spp.)**, **catbrier/greenbrier vine (Smilax auriculata)**. And, oh, that vine that looks like poison ivy? Don't worry, it's only **Virginia creeper (parthenocissus quinquefolia)**, which has five, not three, leaves. This tree is also home to **Spanish moss (Tillandsia usneoides)** and **air plant (Tillandsia setacea)**, both of which gather their nutrients from the air and do not harm the tree in any way. Can you find any additional communities living in this tree?

