



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEATE SASS



## SHARED-USE TRAILS

The "Yield" symbol shows proper trail courtesy when users meet on trails. All 10 miles of dirt roads, and some marked single track trails, are shared-use. Always stop for horses and signal your presence when approaching. Intersections of the trails are marked with numbered green posts corresponding to the numbers on the map. Be prepared to meet bicycles, horses, runners, hikers and leashed dogs on these trails. Access shared-use trails from the Miller Landing Rd or Meridian Trailheads.

## MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Mountain Biking is allowed on all shared-use trails and on the BLUE blazed REDBUG mountain bike trail. All riders should wear helmets. PLEASE DO NOT RIDE ON THE ORANGE BLAZED HIKING TRAIL. Always yield to horses and hikers, and signal your approach from behind to any other users on shared-use trails. The REDBUG mountain bike trail can be accessed from Meridian Youth Sports Complex or Forestmeadows. Parking, restrooms and drinking water are available. The Redbug is an intermediate-skill level trail and approximately 4 miles long. This trail is technically challenging with numerous roots, rocks and wetland areas. Beginners should be prepared to dismount along several sections of the trail. There is a skills area located at the Meridian Trailhead to help riders build their technical skills. Technical features are also located in various places along the trail.

## HORSEBACK RIDING TRAILS

Equestrians may use all the shared-use trails in the park unless otherwise indicated. Some trails are closed to horses and these will be marked with a sign. Ride only on roads or designated trails. A 5-mile measured horse riding route is provided for those who are new to the Park or wish to ride a measured course. It takes about two hours to ride at a leisurely pace. The terrain is rolling and traverses pine and hardwood forests, fields and Lake Jackson shoreline. The path varies from hard clay to sand and grass. It avoids gravel roads except at crossings. Riders should be prepared for fast-moving bicycles, leashed dogs, hikers and joggers. There is no water on the trail for horses. Helmets are encouraged. Always ride with a partner. All horses must have proof of a current negative coggins. Enter at the horse trailer entrance on Miller Landing Road and park just inside gate "A". Always be sure to CLOSE AND LOCK THE GATE AT ALL TIMES WHEN INSIDE THE PARK AND UPON LEAVING. Call 933-6631 or 891-3866 for the gate combination during the week before you plan to ride.

## HIKING TRAILS

Enjoy a quiet walk through forests and fields, stroll along meandering creeks, and view soaring birds near the grassy shoreline of Lake Jackson on 7 miles of ORANGE blazed dedicated hiking trails. Intersections on the hiking trails are marked with lettered posts that correspond to the letters on the Park map. The dedicated hiking trails are part of the Florida Trail System and are designated by orange blazes painted on trees and posts. The hiking trails are maintained by the Apalachee Chapter of the Florida Trail Association, a nonprofit volunteer organization. For more information please visit the web at [apalachee.floridatrail.org](http://apalachee.floridatrail.org)

**COON BOTTOM LOOP [1.5 MI. - EASIEST]** The trail runs beside a clear sand-bottom seepage stream in many places and passes through Beech-Magnolia and Spruce Pine forests. The trail crosses a black-water stream that drains a seepage basin swamp. Along the north side of the loop, the trail passes through an upland forest and crosses another stream before returning to the trailhead.

**SWAMP FOREST LOOP [1.8 MI. - SOUTH SIDE-EASY : NORTH SIDE-STRENUOUS]** The trail overlaps the Coon Bottom Trail for a bit, runs next to a seepage basin swamp and a profusion of ferns, passes ephemeral ponds, and a Beech-Magnolia forest. At R, a trail connects to the shared-use trails at Road Marker 29. The trail to the left is the east end of the Big Tree Cutoff. Then the trail forms a large horseshoe turn, going around the Swamp Forest for which this loop is named. In wet times, water can be seen seeping out of the bank at the top end of the 'horseshoe.' The trail passes the turnoff to Creek Forest Trail at G, climbs steeply to a drier upland area, and finally around the edge of a large drainage basin.

**BIG TREE CUTOFF [0.2 MI. - EASY]** This short trail was built specifically to enable hikers to see a swamp that contains Pinckneya, Needle Palms and a stand of huge Tulip-Poplars near the trail's western end. A puncheon (simplified boardwalk) carries hikers over a low-lying area.

## BLUEBIRD AND BUTTERFLY TRAILS

The Bluebird trail is a series of 30 bluebird boxes, installed as an Eagle Scout project. In areas where nesting boxes have been put up in suitable habitat, bluebird populations are increasing. More than 75 butterfly species have been observed in EKP since July 2001. This is close to half of the 160 butterfly species that regularly occur in Florida and represents a greater diversity than occurs at many larger parks, preserves, and refuges. A variety of habitats in and around the park support the concentrated biodiversity. See the Butterflies and Bluebirds brochure at park entrances A & B, for more information. During warm months, 30 to 40 species – and hundreds of individuals - can often be seen in a single day. Butterflies occur throughout the park, from Miller Landing Rd to the southern boundary and from the soccer fields to Lake Jackson. Some species have been seen only in these outlying areas.

## GREAT FLORIDA BIRDING TRAIL

EKP Park is a site (#66) on the Great Florida Birding Trail (GFBT) a program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). More information can be found at [Floridabirdingtrail.com](http://Floridabirdingtrail.com).



**CREEK FOREST TRAIL [0.8 MI. - EASY]** This trail runs up and around the head of a seepage stream, follows its bank at many points, curves around an ephemeral pond, passes the west end of Big Tree Cutoff at GH, and then encounters a series of enchanting 'meander' loops of the main stream. There are large patches of Giant Cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, along this trail. Its south end is at the junction with the east end of the Oak Hammock Loop at H.

**OAK HAMMOCK LOOP [2.5 MI. - MOSTLY EASY; WEST END - STRENUOUS]** The trail gains elevation along the bank of the stream. The west end of the trail runs near the shore of Lake Jackson. The trail climbs steeply in and out of old erosion gullies running from the higher, previously farmed, area of the Park down the hillside toward the lake. Often deer can be seen along the edges of open fields. At the east end of the fields there are picnic tables under the huge oak trees in the "Oak Hammock." The fields here contain many fenced gopher tortoise holes.

## ADJACENT FACILITIES

**Meridian Youth Sports Complex (Meridian Park)** provides a shared-purpose lighted athletic complex. This Park is located at 4000 N. Meridian Rd.

**Amenities:** Baseball/Sofball Fields, Flag Football Fields (seasonal), Soccer Fields (seasonal), Concession Area, Outdoor Shower, Drinking Water, Parking, Picnic Shelters, Playground, Restrooms and Trailhead.

**Meadows Soccer Complex** is located on Miller Landing Road, just off of Meridian. For more information on the complex, or to reserve a field, contact the hotline at (850) 893-8989, or call (850) 891-3866. This Park is located at 701 Miller Landing Rd.

**Amenities:** Soccer Fields (some lighted), Parking, Concession Area, Outdoor Shower, Drinking Water, Picnic Shelters, and Restrooms.

**Forestmeadows & Athletic Center** includes 19 lighted tennis courts (13 clay and 6 hard), tennis backboards, 3 indoor racquetball courts, 1 indoor squash court, 2 weight rooms, locker rooms with a unisex spa (whirlpool, sauna, and steam room). Play available only during supervised hours: Mon-Fri, 8am -10pm and Sat/Sun, 8am – 7pm. (850) 891-3920 This Park is located at 4750 N. Meridian Rd.

**Amenities:** Tennis, Playground, Swimming Pool, Racquetball Courts, Squash Court, Weight Room, Shower, Drinking Water, Parking, and Trailhead.

## ABOUT THE PARK

Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park (EKP) was purchased in 1992 from Colin Phipps through a cooperative effort between the City of Tallahassee and the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The property was once part of a much larger parcel known as Ayavalla Plantation. The Park is named in honor of Elinor Klapp-Phipps, nicknamed "Klippy," mother of Colin Phipps and wife of John H. Phipps. Together, Elinor and John created and developed Ayavalla Plantation following WWII. For more detailed historical information please visit our website.

The Park is managed for recreation and to preserve and restore watershed for Lake Jackson. There are 10 miles of shared-use trails that include mountain biking and equestrian use, 7 miles of dedicated hiking trails, and 4 miles of dedicated mountain bike trails. Maclay Gardens State Park, located just east of the Park, can be accessed via a pedestrian crossing of N. Meridian Road, on the east side of the Park, next to Forestmeadows or by entering Maclay Gardens State Park's main entrance on Thomasville Road. Together the state park and EKP Park properties create a unique greenway corridor stretching over 4 miles across north Tallahassee. The Park is also home to the Red Hills International Horse Trials.

**Amenities:** Mountain Bike Trails, Horse Trails, Hiking Trails, Shared-Use Trails, Red Hills International Horse Trials (March), Bluebird & Butterfly Trails, Wildlife Viewing and Parking.



*Red Hills International Horse Trials is named for the sloping terrain and rich red earth known as the "red hills" of north Florida and South Georgia. The Horse Trials features a challenging cross-country course. For more information [www.RHHT.org](http://www.RHHT.org)*

## ELINOR KLAPP-PHIPPS PARK

4000 NORTH MERIDIAN RD., TALLAHASSEE, FL. 32308  
Gate A 1275 Miller Landing Rd. - Equestrian  
Gate B 1775 Miller Landing Rd.  
850 891-FUNN (3866) or visit us at [TALGOV.COM](http://TALGOV.COM)



*Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park*  
**PARK AND TRAILS MAP**