NATL-west Grid Map

Rules for using NATL

All academic users of NATL should read the rules on the back of the large kiosk at the pavilion. These are also available on the back of a kiosk near the west end of Division Trail, on the kiosk at the north entrance to NATL-east, and at http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/rules.php.

Public and Restricted Areas

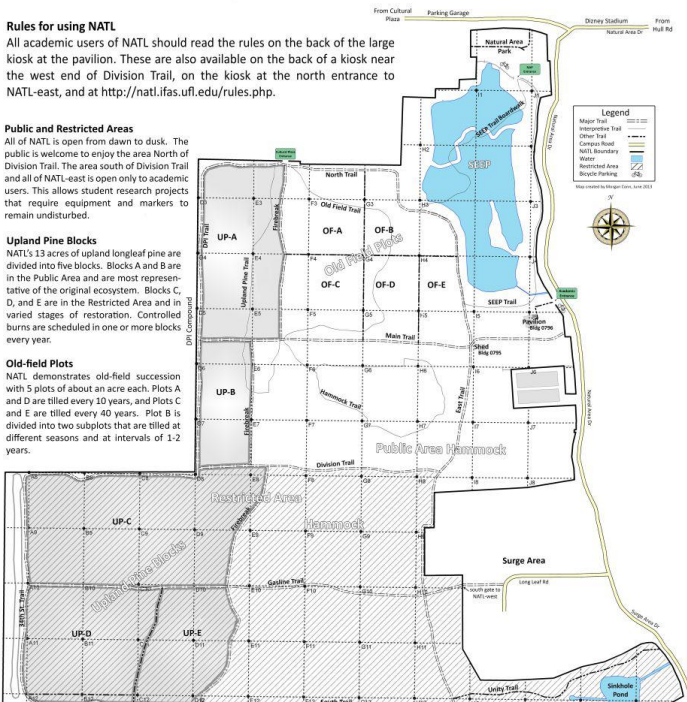
All of NATL is open from dawn to dusk. The public is welcome to enjoy the area North of Division Trail. The area south of Division Trail and all of NATL-east is open only to academic users. This allows student research projects that require equipment and markers to remain undisturbed.

Upland Pine Blocks

NATL's 13 acres of upland longleaf pine are divided into five blocks. Blocks A and B are in the Public Area and are most representative of the original ecosystem. Blocks C, D, and E are in the Restricted Area and in varied stages of restoration. Controlled burns are scheduled in one or more blocks every year.

Old-field Plots

NATL demonstrates old-field succession with 5 plots of about an acre each. Plots A and D are tilled every 10 years, and Plots C and E are tilled every 40 years. Plot B is divided into two subplots that are tilled at different seasons and at intervals of 1-2 years.



50-Meter Grid

Locations in NATL can be specified by reference to a grid system based on north-south gridlines (A-O) and east-west gridlines (1-12). Gridlines are at 50 m intervals. Each gridline intersection (=*grid point*) is identified by its two gridlines (e.g., E5). Each 50x50 m square is identified by the grid point in its northwest corner (e.g. *grid block* G9 is just north of Gasline Trail and just west of the Surge Area).

Using the Grid

To use the grid, you must know where you are in the grid. To approximate your location, refer to the map on which the grid is displayed. To determine your location more exactly, find one or more of the grid stakes that mark the intersections of grid lines. Each grid stake has a green band at top with the letter and number of its two grid lines (e.g., E4). Most are easy to spot by their accompanying 10 ft poles with orange flagging. For those using GPS devices, the geodetic coordinates of all grid stakes are in the spreadsheet at http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/GPSgridpts.xls