The Bowlways Springs Waterworks building is one endpoint of the 16-mile Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail, which winds through Paynes Prairie.

An alligator rests on a bank at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park in Gainesville, Fla., where park trails let visitors get a close-up view of the reptiles and hundreds of species of birds and, if they’re lucky, catch a glimpse of bison or wild horses.