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Gilchrist County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · NORTH FLORIDA & FIRST COAST

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REGION

North Florida & First Coast

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

**Trenton, Bell,
Fanning Springs**

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Spring country, farms and small towns offer a rural setting within reach of Gainesville.

Lifestyle: Springs · Acreage · Gainesville reach

Gilchrist County by the numbers

Population Census estimate	19,040	At the last full count 2020 Census	17,864
Median age	43.2	Aged 65 and over	20.2%
Under 18	21.2%	Median household income	\$63,523
Median home value what owners estimate	\$199,900	Homeownership	85.7%
People per household	2.53	Average commute	31.6 minutes

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, published January 2026, read September 19, 2026. Survey figures are estimates; median home value is what owners estimate their home is worth, not a sale price.

Communities to compare

Trenton

Start with Trenton to understand the established center, nearby services and everyday rhythm within Gilchrist County.

Fanning Springs

Walk or drive through Fanning Springs at different times of day to judge traffic, neighborhood character and access to outdoor space.

Bell

Use Bell to compare housing patterns, main-road access and the shopping or medical stops used during a normal week.

Places that reveal the county

Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park

Five springs in one park on the Santa Fe River, with 44 million gallons a day pushing out of the main vent.

Santa Fe River

A 75-mile river that runs underground for three miles, then comes back up and collects a string of springs along the Gilchrist County line.

Suwannee River

The river that wraps around three sides of Hamilton County, and the one Stephen Foster made famous without ever seeing it.

Fort Fanning Historic Park

The site of an 1838 army fort on the bluff above the Suwannee, with a rebuilt gate and paved paths to the overlooks.

Hart Springs Park

A county park at Bell with one of the largest spring-fed swimming areas in Florida and a half-mile boardwalk to the Suwannee.

Otter Springs Park & Campground

A county campground near Trenton with a second-magnitude spring, a heated pool open all year, and trails down to the Suwannee.

Ginnie Springs Outdoors

Seven springs on the Santa Fe River, privately run, with clear 72-degree water and cave systems divers come a long way to see.

Nature Coast State Trail

A paved rail trail of about 31 miles in three legs, joining Cross City, Old Town, Fanning Springs, Trenton and Chiefland.

Where to check

Florida disaster preparedness maps · Official evacuation-zone, route and storm-surge planning maps.

floridadisaster.org

Florida school accountability reports · Current state school and district accountability information.

fldoe.org

Florida community health data · County-level public health indicators and community reports.

flhealthcharts.gov

Florida housing resources · State resources for homebuyers, renters and local assistance programs.

floridahousing.org