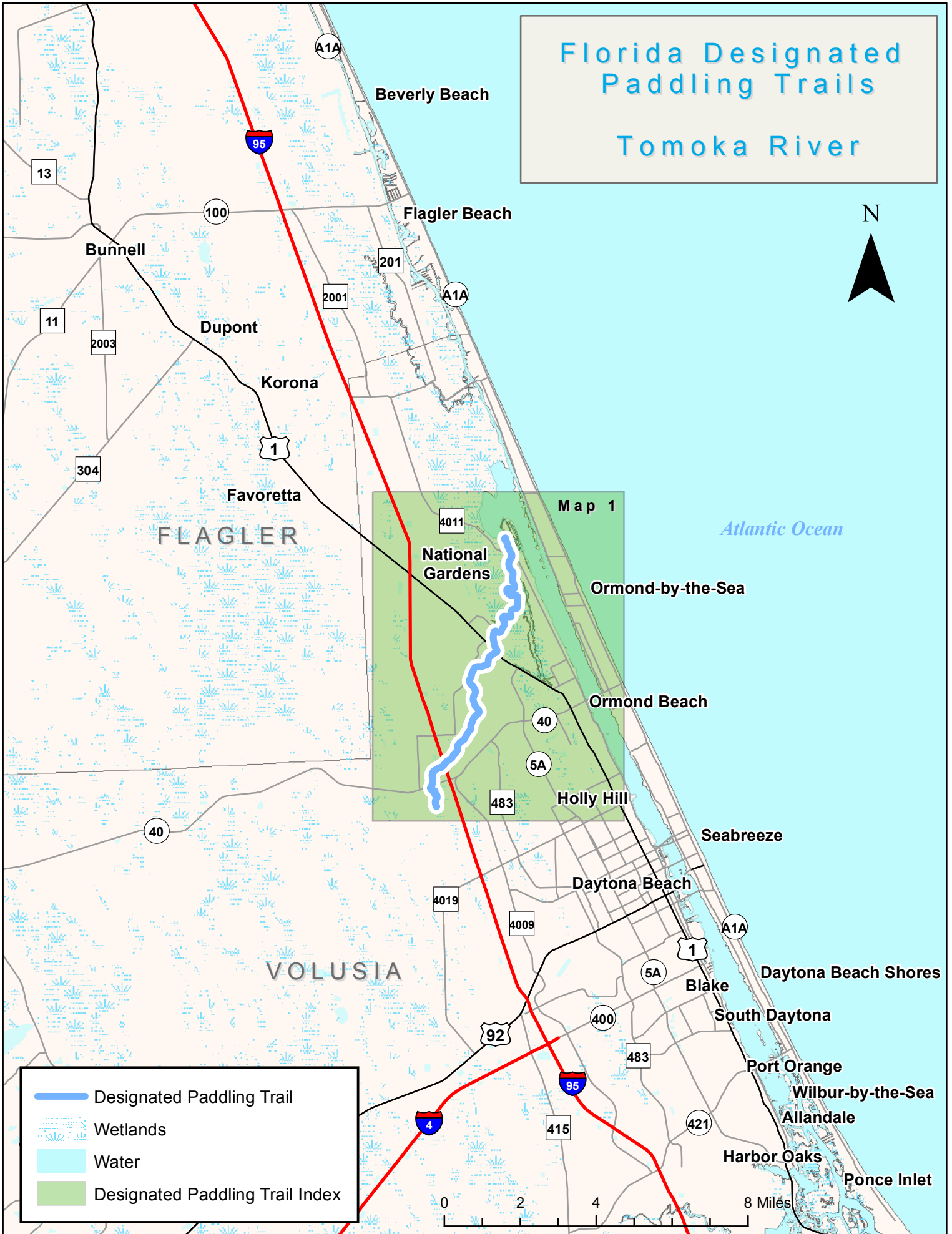






# Florida Designated Paddling Trails

## Tomoka River

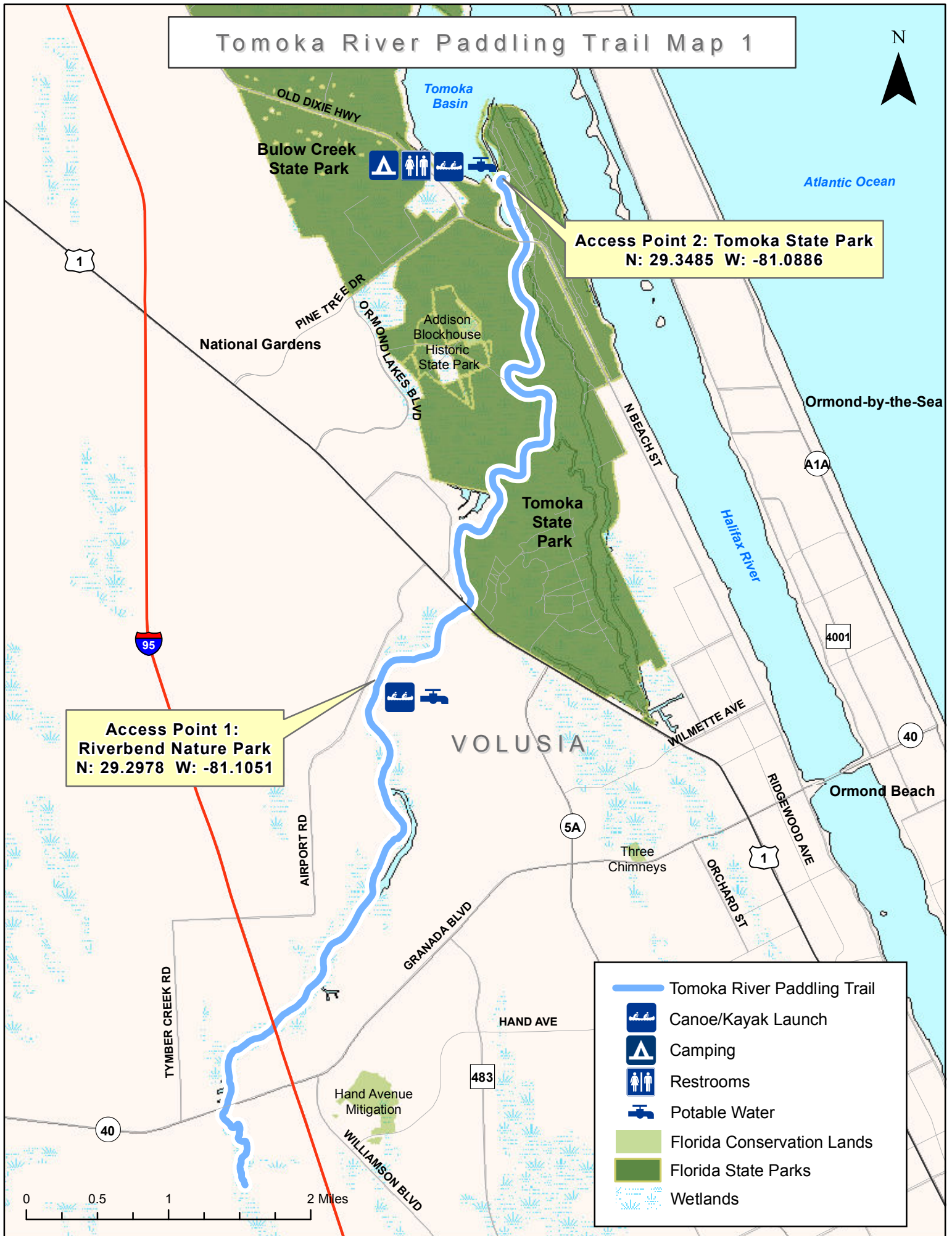


-  Designated Paddling Trail
-  Wetlands
-  Water
-  Designated Paddling Trail Index



# Tomoka River Paddling Trail Map 1

N



**Access Point 2: Tomoka State Park**  
N: 29.3485 W: -81.0886

**Access Point 1: Riverbend Nature Park**  
N: 29.2978 W: -81.1051

- Tomoka River Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Potable Water
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Florida State Parks
- Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

# Tomoka River Paddling Trail Trip Planning

**Overview:** This short river features a wide variety of natural communities, from the narrow canopied waterway upstream of the Riverbend Nature Park to the wide, coastal marsh-lined river around Tomoka State Park. The high ground now occupied by the Tomoka State Park was once the site of the Timucuan Indian village of Nacoroco. The sites of archeological significance surrounding this peninsula are considered some of the most important in Volusia County.

**County:** Volusia

**Nearest town:** Ormond Beach

**Trip length:** 13

**Mileage:**

1. Mile 0—Riverbend Nature Park\*
2. Mile 5—Tomoka State Park

\*You can paddle up to 4 miles upstream from Riverbend Park until the river becomes too shallow and narrow, and return on the same route for a total of 8 miles.

\*\*The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to nearest 0.5 mile).

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate

**Skill level:** Beginner

## Access Points

**Access Point 1 Put-in:** Riverbend Nature Park

**Nearest town to put-in:** Ormond Beach

**Miles from put-in:** 5

**Directions to put-in:** Take US 1 north from Ormond Beach. Turn south on Airport Road and go approximately 1.5 miles. Riverbend Nature Park is on the left (south) side of the road.

**Access Point 2 Take-out:** Tomoka State Park

**Nearest town to take-out:** Ormond Beach

**Miles from take-out:** 5

**Directions to take-out:** Tomoka State Park is located 3 miles north of Ormond Beach on North Beach Street.

**Driving distance from put-in to take-out:** 5.5 miles

**Topo maps (USGS quads):** Ormond Beach

**Gazeteer page:** 74-75

**Outfitters within 20 miles of trail:**

Canoes can be rented at Tomoka River State Park. During summer months, the concessionaire is open 7 days a week during daylight hours; closed Tuesdays from September until March. Call the park concessionaire: (386) 673-0022;  
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/tomoka/default.cfm>

**Shuttle service offered:** None

**USGS link (water level info):**

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv?02247598>

**Break / Lunch areas:** Generally limited to designated access points.

**Camping options:** There is no camping along the river but it is available at Tomoka River State Park <http://www.floridastateparks.org/tomoka/default.cfm>

**Other lodging:** Ormond Beach and Daytona Beach

**Food/Beverage restrictions:** N/A

**What to expect on the river:**

**Tidal influence:** Yes. Tides become stronger as the river widens and nears Tomoka River State Park.

**Pull-overs:** Possible above SR 40 bridge.

**Low branches:** Possible above SR 40 bridge.

**Narrow water:** Possible above SR 40 bridge.

**Shallow water:** Possible above SR 40 bridge.

**Strong currents:** Not likely.

**Rocks:** None.

**Houses:** Scattered mostly between the US 1 bridge and the I-95 bridge.

**Shoals:** None.

**Tight turns:** Possible above SR 40 bridge.

**Open water:** River becomes wider and more exposed to winds below the US 1 Bridge.

**Springs:** None.

**Potable water sources:** Riverbend Nature Park, Tomoka State Park.

**Wildlife:** Alligator, variety of herons and other birds, manatee.

**Natural communities:** Blackwater stream, hydric hammock, tidal marsh

**Portages:** None.

**Swimming:** None.

**Motorboats:** Yes.

**Expect at parking Riverbend Nature Park:**

- **Parking fee:** None.
- **Bathrooms:** None.
- **Hours of operation:** Sunrise to sunset.
- **Camping:** None.
- **Camping fees:** n/a
- **Crowds:** No
- **Boat Ramp:** None.
- **Potable water source:** Yes.
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes, rough narrow dirt launch

**Expect at parking Tomoka State Park:**

- **Parking fee:** Yes, <http://www.floridastateparks.org/tomoka/default.cfm>
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** 8:00 am – Sundown.
- **Camping:** Yes.
- **Camping fees:** Yes, see website above
- **Crowds:** Possible.
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes.
- **Potable water source:** Yes.
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Dirt launch available near boat ramp.

**Cultural and historical features along the trail:**

The high ground now occupied by the Tomoka State Park was once the site of the Timucuan Indian village of Nacoroco. The sites of archeological significance surrounding this peninsula are considered some of the most important archeological finds in Volusia County. The area around the park has been important for agricultural uses for many years as well. In the 1700's, land was cleared to grow indigo, a valuable plant used to produce ink. The 1800's brought sugar cane plantations to the region that prospered until the Second Seminole War, when many of the sugar mills were burned. More recently, in the 1900's, the area was home to several grand hotels.

**Notes:**

Access to the Tomoka River is very limited considering its length and proximity to populated areas. Two areas, the SR 40 Bridge and US 1 Bridge, were once popular places to launch boats. *Both of these bridges no longer provide access to the river.* The access at Riverbend Nature Park requires carrying boats approximately 25 yards down a trail to an unimproved canoe launch. This launch can be found down a walking trail near the exit of the parking lot. The distance from Riverbend Park upstream to where the Tomoka becomes impassable is about 4 miles, an 8-mile

roundtrip back to Riverbend Park. It is another 5 miles downstream to the Tomoka River State Park.

Boat traffic on this river can be heavy during holidays and weekends, but posted speed and wake limitations should help to minimize disturbances.

Upstream from the SR 40 Bridge, the Tomoka River changes dramatically. Within two miles of passing under the bridge, the river becomes dramatically narrower and shallower and eventually becomes impassable due to blow-downs.

The Tomoka River is an interesting waterway to paddle due to its variety of associated natural communities. It is fascinating to observe the transitions and follow the river from the low, canopied, dark waters above SR 40 all the way down to the wide open salt marsh close to the state park.