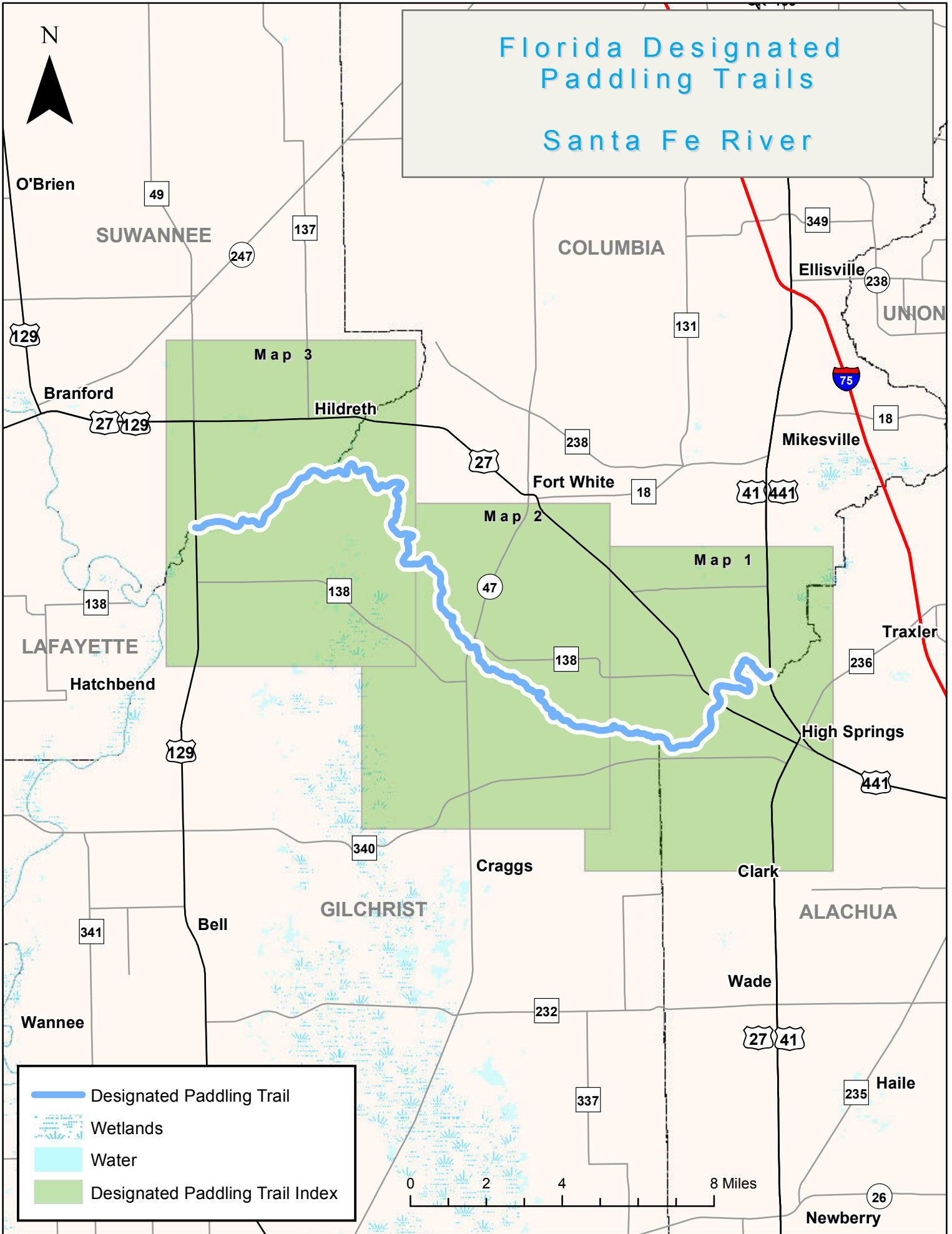


Florida Designated Paddling Trails Santa Fe River



Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Map 1

N



778

COLUMBIA

Access Point 1: US 41/441 Bridge
N: 29.8521 W: -82.6116

41 441

River Rise Preserve State Park

138

Camp Kulaqua Conservation Easement

27

McCall Park

NW 210TH LN

236

RUM ISLAND RD

Access Point 2: US 27 Bridge
N: 29.8441 W: -82.6308



MAIN ST

High Springs

441

Poe Springs Park

340

Access Point 3: Rum Island Park
N: 29.8334 W: -82.6784

ALACHUA

NW 174TH ST

27 41

GILCHRIST

NW 142ND AVE

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles

Santa Fe River Paddling Trail

Springs

Canoe/Kayak Launch

Restrooms

Florida Conservation Lands

Florida State Parks

Wetlands

Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Map 2

N



Ft White Mitigation
Park Wildlife &
Environmental Area

Ichetucknee
Conservation
Area

Loncala, Inc.
Conservation Easement #1

COLUMBIA

47

Access Point 4: CR 47 Bridge
N: 29.8646 W: -82.7399

138

138

Santa Fe Springs Conservation Area

GILCHRIST

341

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

-  Santa Fe River Paddling Trail
-  Springs
-  Canoe/Kayak Launch
-  Florida Conservation Lands
-  Wetlands

Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Map 3

N

264TH ST

49

137

Ichetucknee Springs State Park

27 129

27

SUWANNEE

5: Ichetucknee River Confluence
N: 29.9324 W: -82.8002

COLUMBIA

Access Point 6: US 129 Bridge
N: 29.9119 W: -82.8602

129

290TH ST

296TH ST

Ichetucknee Conservation Area

Ft White Mitigation Park Wildlife & Environmental Area

Radcliffe Tract

GILCHRIST

138


Loncala, Inc. Conservation Easement #1

 Santa Fe River Paddling Trail

 Springs

 Canoe/Kayak Launch

 Florida Conservation Lands

 Florida State Parks

 Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Trip Planning

Overview: This scenic trail begins in O'Leno State Park, where the Santa Fe reappears after flowing underground for more than three miles. A tributary of the Suwannee River, the Santa Fe curves past hardwood hammocks and through river swamps. Many clear springs feed the Santa Fe and provide cool relief on hot days. Small shoals are present during low water, which can be attempted by intermediate paddlers.

Counties: Columbia, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Alachua

Nearest towns: Fort White, High Springs

Trip length: 26 miles

Mileage:

1. Mile 0—US 41/441 Bridge
2. Mile 3—US 27 Bridge
3. Mile 7—Rum Island Park
4. Mile 12—CR 47 Bridge
5. Mile 21.5—Ichetucknee River confluence
6. Mile 26—US 129 Bridge

**The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to the nearest 0.5 mile). Point #5 is listed for navigational purposes only. There is no access.

Difficulty: Easy

Skill level: Beginner

Access Points

Access Point #1 Put-in: Boat ramp 200 yards downstream from the US 41/441 Bridge

Nearest town to put-in: High Springs

Miles from put-in: 1

Directions to put-in: From the intersection of US 41 and CR 236 (Main Street) in High Springs, travel north on US 41 about one mile. As US 41 curves to the right look for a paved road to your left and follow down to the boat ramp at the end. This launch is only a couple of hundred yards from the US 41 bridge.

There is also an outfitter at the bridge who allows launching for a fee.

Access Point #2 Put-in: US 27 Bridge

Nearest town to put-in: High Springs

Miles from put-in: 2

Directions to put-in: Parking area and boat ramp are on the northwest side of the bridge just a few miles west of High Springs.

Access Point #3 Put-in: Rum Island Park

Nearest town to put-in: High Springs

Miles from put-in: 6.5

Directions to put-in: Follow Highway 27 west out of High Springs about 3 miles to County Road 138 (yellow flashing light). Turn left and drive 2 miles to Rum Island Road (look for a large sign) and take a left. Follow about 1.5 miles to the park. Rum Island Spring is a short distance from the launch.

Access Point #4 Put-in: CR 47 Bridge

Nearest town to put-in: Fort White

Miles from put-in: 4.5

Directions to put-in: Travel 4.5 miles southwest of Fort White on CR 47. Cross bridge and turn left into small recreation area and launch managed by Gilchrist County.

Access Point #6 Take-out: US 129 bridge

Miles from put-in: 7

Nearest town to put-in: Branford

Directions to take-out: From Branford, head east on US 27 for 4 miles and turn right onto US 129. Continue south for 2.8 miles. Just before the bridge is a road on the right, turn here to access the boat ramp below the bridge.

From High Springs head west on US 27 and continue until you reach the US 129 intersection. Turns left (south) and continue 2.8 miles to the bridge over the Santa Fe River. Just before the bridge is a road on the right, turn here to access the boat ramp below the bridge.

Driving distance from first put-in to take-out: About 24 miles

Topo maps (USGS quads): Branford, Hildreth, High Springs, High Springs SW

Gazeteer page: 64-65

Outfitters within 20 miles of trail:

Santa Fe Canoe Outpost (386) 454-2050 <http://www.santaferiver.com/>

Adventure Outpost (386) 454-0611 <http://www.adventureoutpost.net/>

Shuttle service offered: Call outfitters

USGS link (water level info): <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv?02322500>

And from the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD):
<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/realtimeriverlevels/realtimeriverlevels.aspx>.

Note: River levels at the SRWMD gauge at the US 441 Bridge should be above 32 feet for adequate water between US 441 and US 27. If river levels are below 31.5 feet at the same gauge, there will be some shallow spots below the US 27 Bridge that may require pushing or pulling your boat for short stretches.

Break / Lunch areas: There are numerous springs along the river. Some privately owned ones charge admission to enter and will be posted as such as you enter the spring run. There are other publicly owned parks that do not charge.

Camping options: It is permissible to camp on Suwannee River Water Management District property on the west side of the river between Ginnie Springs and the SR 47 Bridge. There is no charge but you must call first for permission and allow 7 days to receive permit in the mail, or it may be possible to FAX one more quickly. Call the following numbers at (386) 362-1001 or 1-800-226-1066 (Florida only) during business hours Monday - Friday.

Camping is available at O'Leno State Park near High Springs:
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/oleno/>.

Other lodging: High Springs area,
<http://www.highsprings.com/home/index.php/member-directory.html>.

Food/Beverage restrictions: None

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: None

Pull-overs: None

Low branches: None

Narrow water: None

Shallow water: Depends on water levels

Strong currents: With high water levels

Rocks: Yes

Houses: Few

Shoals: Yes

Tight turns: None

Open water: None

Springs: Over three dozen springs flow into the river; some are privately owned and require a fee to visit. For more information on area springs access this website: http://www.santaferiversprings.com/about_the_springs.html

Wildlife: Turtles, heron, egret, owls, hawks, osprey, limpkin, and ibis are common. Alligators, otters, feral hogs, deer, beavers, raccoons, and armadillos may be seen along the banks.

Natural communities: Sandhills, hardwood hammocks, floodplain swamp

Portages: None

Swimming: Numerous springs make pleasant swimming stops.

Motorboats: Motorboat traffic may be heavy between the Itchetucknee River and US 129, especially during weekends and holidays. A few fishing boats venture upstream of the 47 bridge

Expect at parking US 41/441:

- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** None
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** No gates
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** None
- **Crowds:** Possible on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Use boat ramp

Expect at parking US 27:

- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** None
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** No gates
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** N/A
- **Crowds:** Possible on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Use boat ramp

Expect at parking Rum Island Park:

- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** Portable toilets
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours. Closed Tuesday mornings for maintenance.
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** N/A
- **Crowds:** Possible on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Use boat ramp

Expect at parking CR 47:

- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** None
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** No gates
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** N/A
- **Crowds:** Possible on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Use boat ramp

Expect at parking US 129:

- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** None
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** No gates
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** N/A
- **Crowds:** Possible on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes
- **Potable water source:** None
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Use boat ramp

Cultural and historical features along the trail:

Humans have dwelled along this beautiful river with its splendid springs for over 10,000 years, fishing and hunting the region's abundant wildlife.

In the 1600's, Spanish missionaries of the Franciscan Order established a network of missions and outposts across North Florida. One of the missions, Santa Fe de Teleco, gave the river its name and was located a few miles east of today's O'leno State Park.

O'Leno State Park contains a natural land bridge that spans a three mile stretch where the Santa Fe disappears underground and emerges later at the River Rise Preserve. From the 1500's through the 1700's, this natural bridge area that served as a crossroad between the Santa Fe River Sink and the River Rise. This natural bridge was traveled by Spanish explorers, Indians and settlers alike.

One of Florida's first state parks, O'Leno was first developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The suspension bridge built by the CCC still spans the river

Notes:

The Santa Fe River goes underground in O'Leno State Park and reemerges over three miles away in River Rise State Park as a circular pool before resuming its journey to the Suwannee River. From the put-in near US 41/441 it is possible to paddle about 5 miles roundtrip to visit the River Rise. This is a remote and beautiful area and it is worth paddling upstream to enjoy the wilderness scenery.

There are more than three dozen springs along the Santa Fe, including many popular ones: Ginnie, Blue, Poe, Ichetucknee, Mission, Rum Island, Columbia and July. There are dozens more that remain unnamed. Some require an entrance fee. Please respect the springs posted 'private' and avoid entering. One of the smaller ones, Lily Springs, is the home of Ed, a colorful local character, who is frequently clad in a loincloth (or not). He welcomes respectful visitors to the springs and has picnic tables and a portable toilet.

The name "Rum Island" was believed to be derived from bootlegging and moonshine operations on the island in the early 1900s. Currently, no alcohol is allowed in the park.

The beautiful spring-fed river Itchetucknee River flows into the Santa Fe about six miles upstream from US 129. The Itchetucknee is popular with tubers within the State Park boundaries and motorboats cluster at the confluence with the Santa Fe. It is possible to paddle upstream a distance of about six miles into the Itchetucknee State Park, although the current may be strong. There can also be large numbers of tubers that enter the Santa Fe River at Ginnie Springs along with associated litter.