

Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Withlacoochee River North



Withlacoochee River Paddling Trail Map 1

FLORIDA/GEORGIA LINE

Pinetta

Hanson

Jennings

41

75

Withlacoochee River Paddling Trail Map 2

HAMILTON

Madison

MADISON

90

Withlacoochee River Paddling Trail Map 3

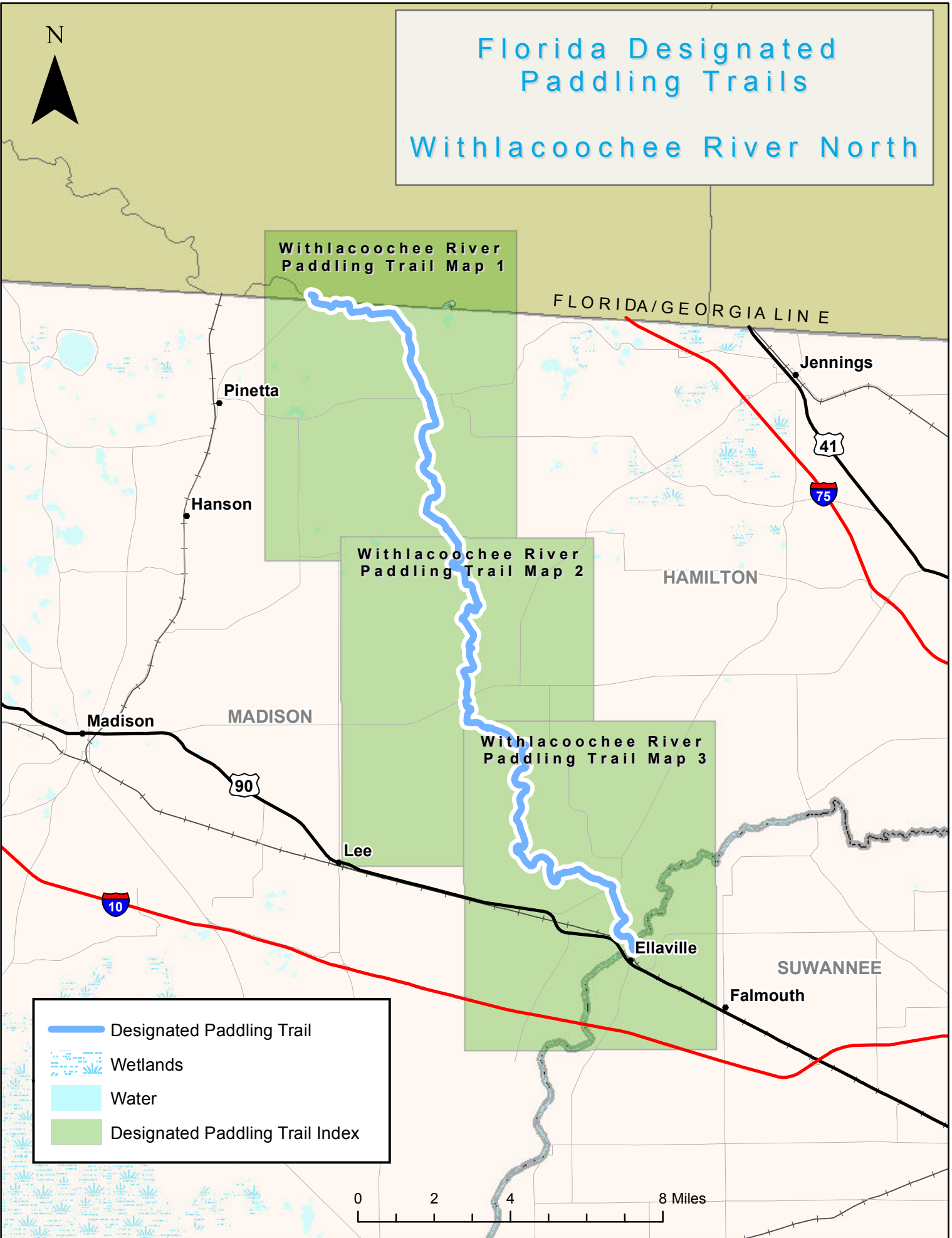
Lee

Ellaville

SUWANNEE

Falmouth

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






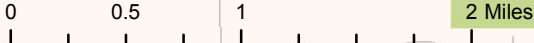
Withlacoochee North Paddling Trail Map 1



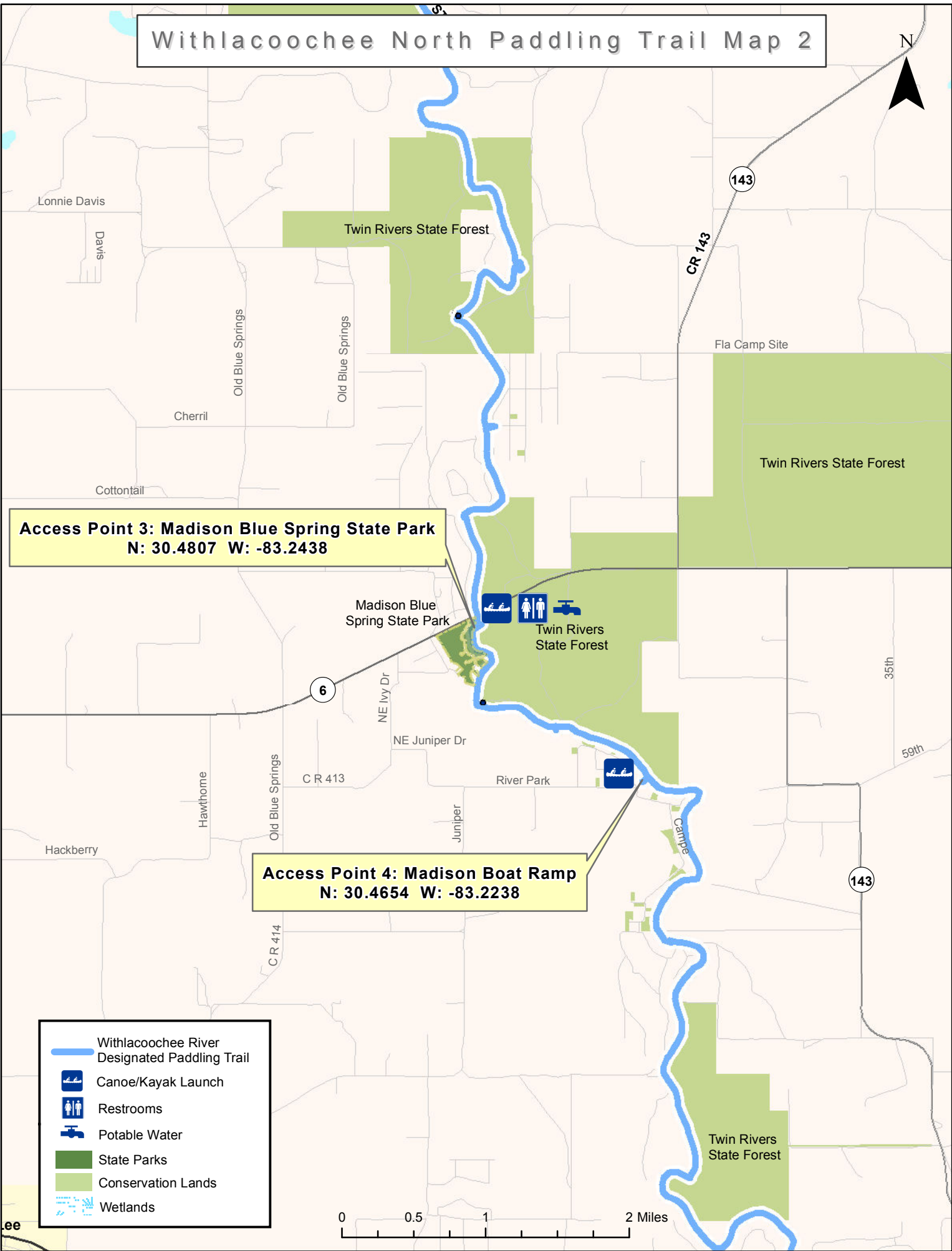
Access Point 1: CR 145 Bridge Launch
N: 30.6357 W: -83.3112

Access Point 2: CR 150 Bridge Launch
N: 30.5957 W: -83.2597

-  Withlacoochee River
-  Designated Paddling Trail
-  Canoe/Kayak Launch
-  Florida Conservation Lands
-  Wetlands



Withlacoochee North Paddling Trail Map 2



Access Point 3: Madison Blue Spring State Park
N: 30.4807 W: -83.2438

Madison Blue Spring State Park
Twin Rivers State Forest

Access Point 4: Madison Boat Ramp
N: 30.4654 W: -83.2238

Fla Camp Site

Twin Rivers State Forest

Twin Rivers State Forest









- Withlacoochee River
- Designated Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Restrooms
- Potable Water
- State Parks
- Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

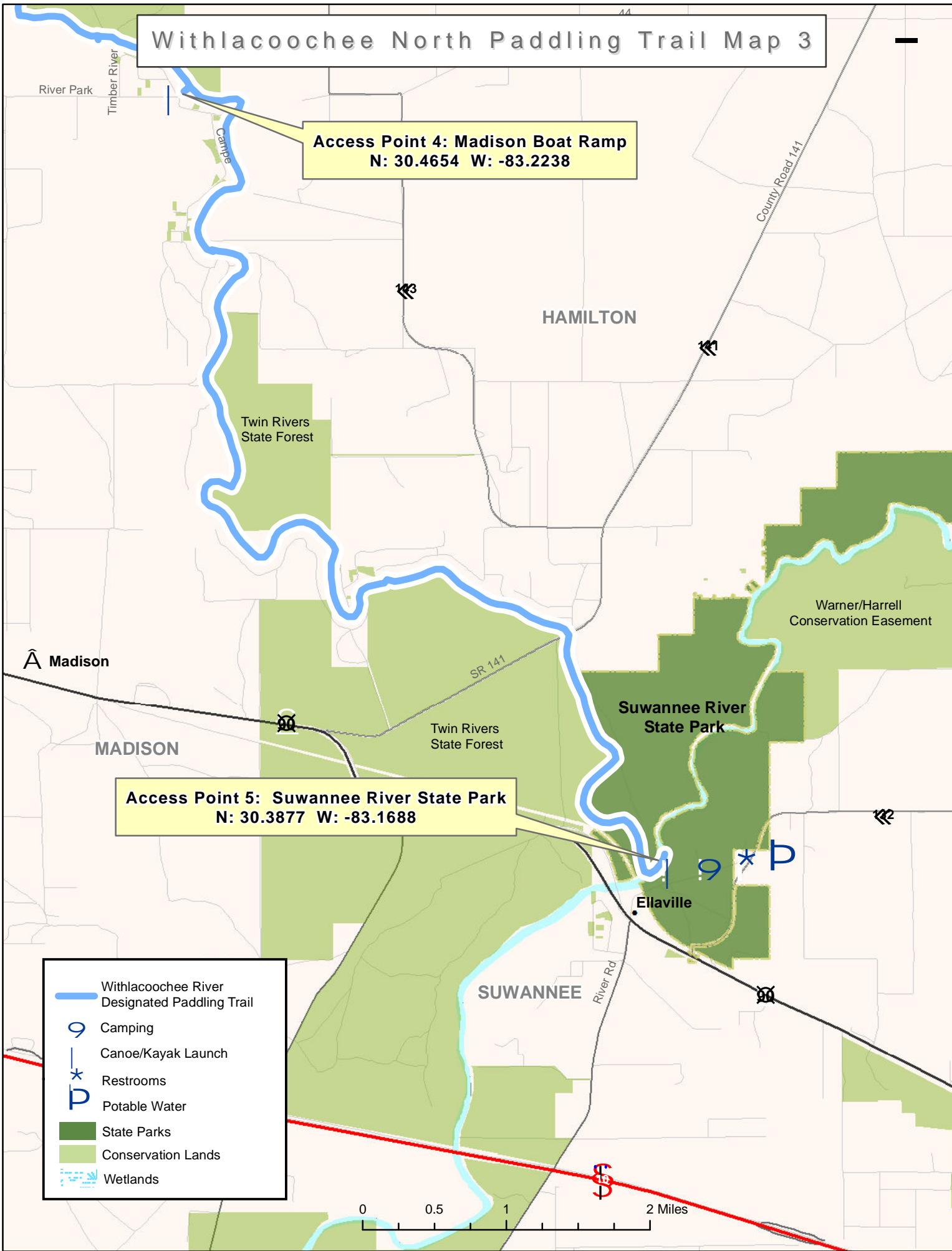
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Withlacoochee North Paddling Trail Map 3

Access Point 4: Madison Boat Ramp
N: 30.4654 W: -83.2238

Access Point 5: Suwannee River State Park
N: 30.3877 W: -83.1688

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



Withlacoochee (North) River Paddling Trail Trip Planning

Overview: This river gently curves through Twin Rivers State Forest past hardwood forests, crystal-clear springs, and sandbars along the bends. Primitive camping is allowed along the way. There are some small shoals, but portaging is generally not necessary. The Withlacoochee contributes a significant amount of water to the Suwannee River and joins it at Suwannee River State Park. The trail ends at the boat ramp in the state park, about a quarter-mile upstream on the Suwannee River.

Counties: Hamilton, Madison

Nearest towns: Madison, Pinetta, Live Oak

Trip length: Approx. 28 Miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate-- Depending on Water Levels

Skill level: Beginner to Intermediate-- Depending on Water Levels

Mileage:

1. Mile 0--SR 145 Bridge
2. Mile 5--CR 150 Bridge
3. Mile 16--Madison Blue Spring State Park
4. Mile 18--Madison Boat Ramp
5. Mile 28--Suwannee River State Park

**The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to the nearest 0.5 mi)

Access Point 1 Put-in: C.R. 145 Bridge at Georgia State Line

Nearest town to put-in: Pinetta

Miles from put-in: Approx. 4 miles

Directions to put-in: From Madison take C.R. 145 North through Pinetta to the bridge at the Withlacoochee River. Boat ramp is on the Georgia side (north east) of the river.

Access Point 2 Put-in: C.R. 150 Bridge

Nearest town to put-in: Pinetta

Miles from put-in: 5.6 miles

Directions to put-in: From Pinetta, take C.R. 150 5.6 miles to river. Launch is off unpaved road on southwest side of bridge.

From Access Point 1, follow C.R. 145 about 4 miles back to Pinetta and follow directions above.

Access Point 3 Put-in: Madison Blue Spring State Park

Nearest town to put-in: Madison

Miles from put-in: 10 miles

Directions to put-in: From Madison, take Hwy 90 east about two miles and keep going straight another 8 miles to state park entrance on right.

From Access Point 3, drive east on C.R. 150 3.4 miles and turn south onto C.R. 255. Follow 8.9 miles and turn left onto S.R. 6. Follow 3.4 miles to state park entrance on right.

Access Point 4 Put-in: Madison boat ramp

Directions to put-in: From state park, take S.R. 6 west about .5 mile and turn south onto NE Ivy. Follow .7 miles through stop sign at water bottling plant and turn left onto Juniper Road. Follow .7 mile and keep heading straight on River Park Road until it ends at park and boat ramp after 1.2 miles.

Note: Most of these roads are unpaved and can be confusing since there are no directional signs for ramp.

Access Point 5 Take-out: Suwannee River State Park

Directions to take-out: From Madison, drive east on U.S. 90 about 16 miles to the Suwannee River State Park. Follow signs to the boat ramp located on the Suwannee River. From Live Oak, the state park entrance is about 12 miles west on Hwy 90.

From Madison Blue Spring State Park, head west 3.5 miles on S.R. 6 and turn south onto C.R. 255. Follow 3.5 miles to U.S. 90 at the town of Lee. Turn left onto U.S. 90 and follow about 9 miles to state park entrance on left.

Driving distance from put-in to take-out: Approximately 25 miles

Topo maps (USGS quads): Pinetta, Lee, Ellaville

Gazeteer page: 37, 53

Nearest local outfitters:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/wilderness/Outfitters.cfm>.

Shuttle service offered: Contact above

Water level info: Suwannee River Water Management District gauge at Pinetta:

<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/30DayRiverLevels/30DayRiverLevels.aspx?staid=142>. Note: The Pinetta gauge should read above 54 feet for optimal paddling conditions. If below 54 feet, many of the shoals may be too low to paddle through.

Break / Lunch areas: Sandbars along the river are pleasant for picnics, Madison Blue Springs State Park and other county parks along the river have picnic tables and shelters

Camping options: Camping is allowed on Twin Rivers State Forest lands along the river; no permit is required. Primitive campsites can be found at 3 sites along the river with yellow blazes on trees visible from the river. See map for locations.

Food/Beverage restrictions: No alcohol allowed at Madison Blue Springs State Park

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: none

Pull-overs: Not likely

Low branches: none

Narrow water: none

Shallow water: none

Strong currents: possible with high water levels

Rocks: large rocks and shoals are present at intervals throughout the river

Houses: Few residences are located between C.R. 145 and Hwy 6; houses become more frequent on the lower stretch of the river

Shoals: numerous,

Tight turns: none

Open water: none

Springs: <http://www.floridasprings.org/visit/map/>.

Potable water sources: Madison Blue Springs State Park

Wildlife: Abundant birds and ducks, deer, raccoon, otter, beaver, wild turkey, bobcat, alligators

Natural communities: pine flatwoods, mixed hardwoods, river floodplain, springs

Portages: Possible depending on water levels at shoals. Portaging is not likely during normal or high water levels.

Swimming: Popular at spring sites along the river

Motorboats: Small fishing boats present but limited due to shoals in the river

Expect at parking C.R. 145:

- **Parking fee:** none
- **Bathrooms:** none
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** N/a
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** n/a
- **Crowds:** none
- **Boat Ramp:** concrete boat ramp
- **Potable water source:** none
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** none

Expect at parking C.R. 150:

- **Parking fee:** none
- **Bathrooms:** none
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** N/a
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** n/a
- **Crowds:** none
- **Boat Ramp:** none
- **Potable water source:** none
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** yes. Launch is paved sidewalk followed by mesh and gravel.

Expect at parking at Madison Blue Spring State Park:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/madisonbluespring/>.

- **Parking fee:** yes (**no overnight parking**)
- **Bathrooms:** yes
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** 8 a.m. to sunset
- **Camping:** None

- **Camping fees:** n/a
- **Crowds:** May be crowded on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** none
- **Potable water source:** yes
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** yes. Launch is just south of main springs near picnic area at mouth of spring run along river. Be careful of rocks and cypress knees near water. Launch is about 175 yards to parking area.

Expect at parking Madison Boat Ramp:

- **Parking fee:** none
- **Bathrooms:** none
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** N/a
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** n/a
- **Crowds:** none
- **Boat Ramp:** concrete boat ramp
- **Potable water source:** none
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** none

Expect at parking at Suwannee River State Park:

<http://floridastateparks.org/suwanneeriver/default.cfm>.

- **Parking fee:** entrance fees apply
- **Bathrooms:** yes
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** 8 a.m. to sunset
- **Camping:** yes. Cabins also available
- **Camping fees:** see website
- **Crowds:** none
- **Boat Ramp:** concrete boat ramp
- **Potable water source:** yes
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** no
- **Note:** This park is on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/wilderness/>.

Cultural and historical features along the trail:

Historically, the junction of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers was an important point of commerce. In the 1800's, both rivers were used as major commercial routes. Steamboats were a common sight as they carried passengers, freight and mail on the rivers.

Notes: Rocky shoals are numerous along the river but may not be noticeable during high water levels. The Withlacoochee can be challenging when water levels are low and shoals are more exposed. Take time to scout the shoals prior to paddling if in doubt. View the water level/river gauge info provided in this guide.

The put-in points at the C.R. 145 and C.R. 150 bridges are located in remote, unpopulated locations and vehicles are left overnight at your own risk. There is no overnight parking allowed at Madison Blue Spring State Park.

At the confluence of the Suwannee River, paddle upstream to the boat ramp at the Suwannee River State Park on the east side of the river to end your trip. Shuttle vehicles may be left here overnight at the park. The Suwannee River State Park is a stop on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail and camping and cabins are available.

The old spring house that surrounds the Suwanacoochee Spring on the right just before the confluence of the Suwannee River is worth a look. The limestone rocks can be sharp, so use caution.