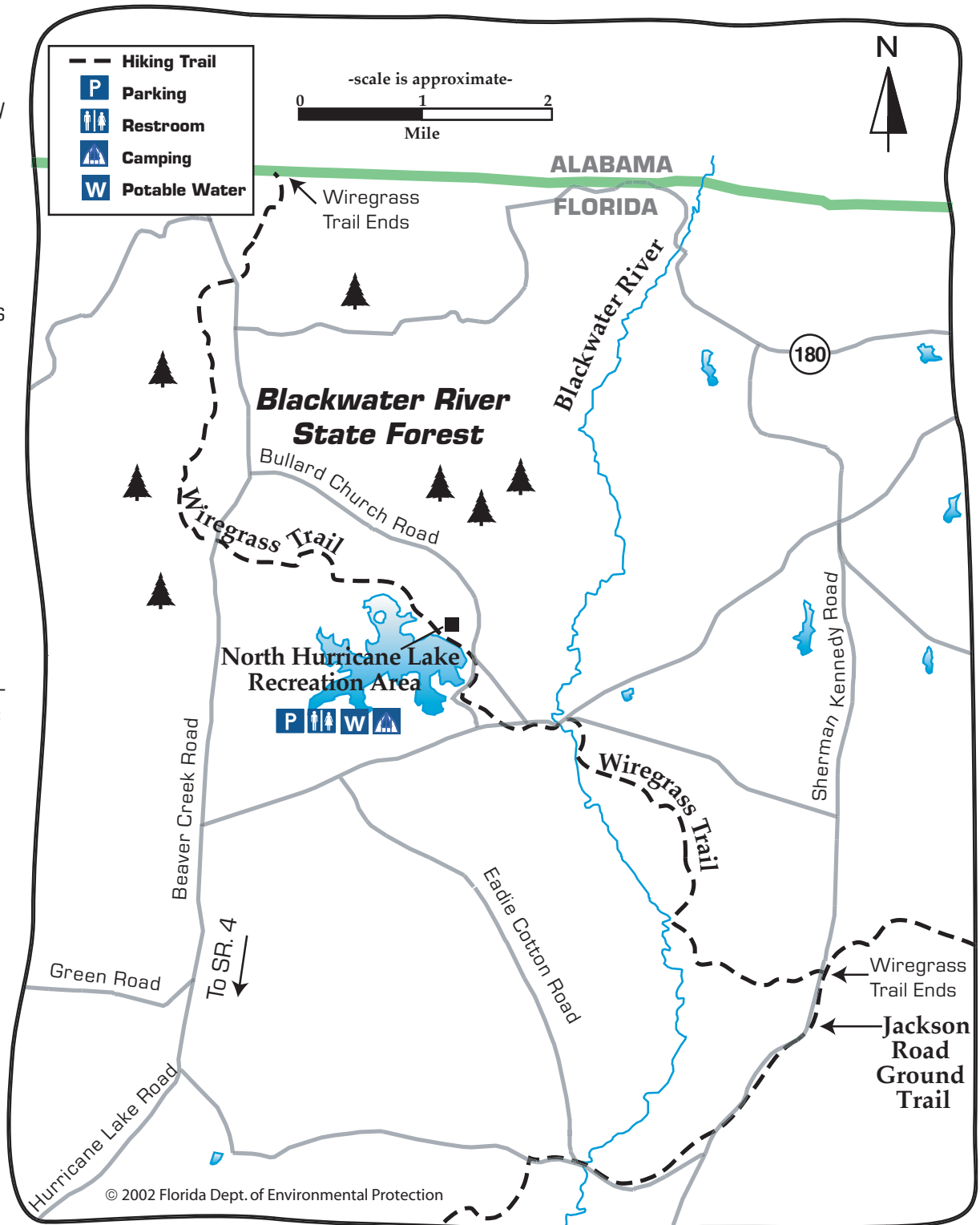


# Blackwater River State Forest–Wiregrass Trail

The Blackwater River State Forest offers a natural retreat set amidst the beautiful rolling hills of northwest Florida. Reaching from Conecuh National Forest along the Alabama border toward Eglin Air Force Base, this state forest is Florida's largest at nearly 190,000 acres. The forest is characterized by its many streams, including the name-sake Blackwater River, that flow gently south as they make their way to the Gulf of Mexico. Located in the northern extent of the state forest, the Wiregrass Trail is certified as a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail and a portion is included in the Division of Forestry's Trailwalker Program. Among its highlights, the trail takes hikers through part of one of the largest remaining stands of longleaf pine/wiregrass natural community found anywhere.



# Blackwater River State Forest–Wiregrass Trail

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**Major Activities:** Hiking

**Trail Length/Surface:**

12.7 miles from end to end, unpaved

**Fee:** None

**Counties:** Okaloosa, Santa Rosa

**Nearby Cities:** Munson, Crestview

**Notes:**

The hiking trail is blazed orange. Heading northwest from the North Hurricane Lake Recreation Area, the trail is 6.4 miles to the terminus at the Alabama border. Heading southeast, it is 6.3 miles to the Jackson Red Ground Trail, which is a continuation of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

The Florida Trail Association (FTA) produces a detailed hiking guide and segment-by-segment maps which are very useful for hiking the Florida National Scenic Trail. For more information, visit FTA's web-site at [www.florida-trail.org](http://www.florida-trail.org) or call 1-877-HIKEFLA.

The 6.3 mile segment from Hurricane Lake to Jackson Red Ground Trail is part of the Division of Forestry's Trailwalker Program. This program offers recognition awards for hiking designated trails in state forests throughout Florida. For more information, contact the office below or visit the program's website ([www.fl-dof.com/Recreation/Trailwalker/index.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/Recreation/Trailwalker/index.html)).

**Directions/Access:**

***North Hurricane Lake Recreation Area***

From Munson, head east on SR 4 2.8 miles to Hurricane Lake Road. Turn left onto Hurricane Lake Road (which eventually becomes Beaver Creek Road) and continue north 8.6 miles to Bullard Church Road. Turn right and continue 1.1 miles to Nichols Road. Take a right and continue to the recreation area. Go to the kiosk in the campground.

From Crestview, head west on US 90 to the intersection with SR 4. Take a right on SR 4 and follow to Hurricane Lake Road. Turn right onto Hurricane Lake Road (which eventually becomes Beaver Creek Road) and continue north 8.6 miles to Bullard Church Road. Turn right and continue 1.1 miles to Nichols Road. Take a right and continue to the recreation area. Go to the kiosk in the campground.

If coming from I-10, take the Avalon Boulevard Exit (Exit 22). Follow Avalon Boulevard to US 90. Take a right and continue to Burger King. Take a left at Stuart Street (Hwy 87). Go to Milton High School. Take a right across from Milton High School on Hwy 191. Follow for approximately 20 miles to Munson crossroads (Hwy 191 and SR 4). Follow directions from Munson above.

**Contact Information:**

Blackwater River State Forest

11650 Munson Hwy

Milton, FL 32570

Phone: 850/957-6140

[http://www.fl-dof.com/state\\_forests/blackwater.htm](http://www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/blackwater.htm)



[www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.org](http://www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.org)