

Blackwater Heritage State Trail

Blackwater Heritage State Trail is the westernmost rail-trail in the state. It extends north 8.1 miles from the town of Milton to the Whiting Field Naval Air Station Trailhead. Another 9/10's of a mile extends south of US 90. Restrooms are located at Milton Trailhead.

The trail follows the path of the former Florida and Alabama Railroad (F&ARR), which was owned and operated by Bagdad Land and Lumber Company. Built in the early 1900s, it extended from the lumber mill in Bagdad to Whitley, Alabama. The F&ARR supported the timber and lumber business in Bagdad from 1830 to 1939, at which time the line was closed. With the coming of World War II and the establishment of Whiting Field Naval Air Station, the rail line was rebuilt in the early 1940s to supply aviation fuel to the base.

The equestrian portion of the trail runs adjacent to a segment of the paved trail with shared bridges. The equestrian trail itself begins about one mile north of the Milton Trailhead, but equestrian access is available at the parking area located at Munson Highway (see parking location identified on map). There is ample oversized parking available, as well as a picnic shelter.

The visitor center is located at 5533 Alabama Street across from the Santa Rosa County Public Library. Currently, it is staffed part-time by volunteers from the Citizen Support Organization who assist with the management of the trail.

The trail is mostly rural, but there are numerous town street crossings. Along the way, you will pass the Milton Fire Station, Milton City Hall and the trail visitor center. There are also nine bridges that cross various sized streams along the trail. Further north along the trail, there are piney woods, a cypress/bay tree swamp, an area of white-topped pitcher plants and several creeks. The trail provides an easy, pleasant trip for all levels of users.

Extending north from Blackwater Heritage State Trail is the 1.5 mile Military Heritage Trail that culminates at the Whiting Field Naval Air Station entrance gate. This section of trail is managed by the Whiting Field Naval Air Station.



Trail Safety and Etiquette

- Bicyclists and in-line skaters yield to other users; all trail users yield to equestrians.
- Obey all trail rules posted at trailheads.
- Stay to the right except when passing.
- Pass slower traffic on their left; yield to oncoming traffic when passing.
- Give a clear warning signal when passing.
- Always look ahead and behind when passing.
- Travel at a responsible speed.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Do not trespass on private property.
- Move off the trail surface when stopped to allow others to pass.
- Yield to other trail users when entering and crossing the trail.
- Do not disturb the wildlife.
- Watch out for traffic when crossing the street.
- Obey all traffic signals.
- Helmets for children under 16 required, but recommended for everyone riding bicycles.

Local Contact Information:
Blackwater Heritage State Trail
5533 Alabama Street
Milton, Florida 32570
(850) 983-5338

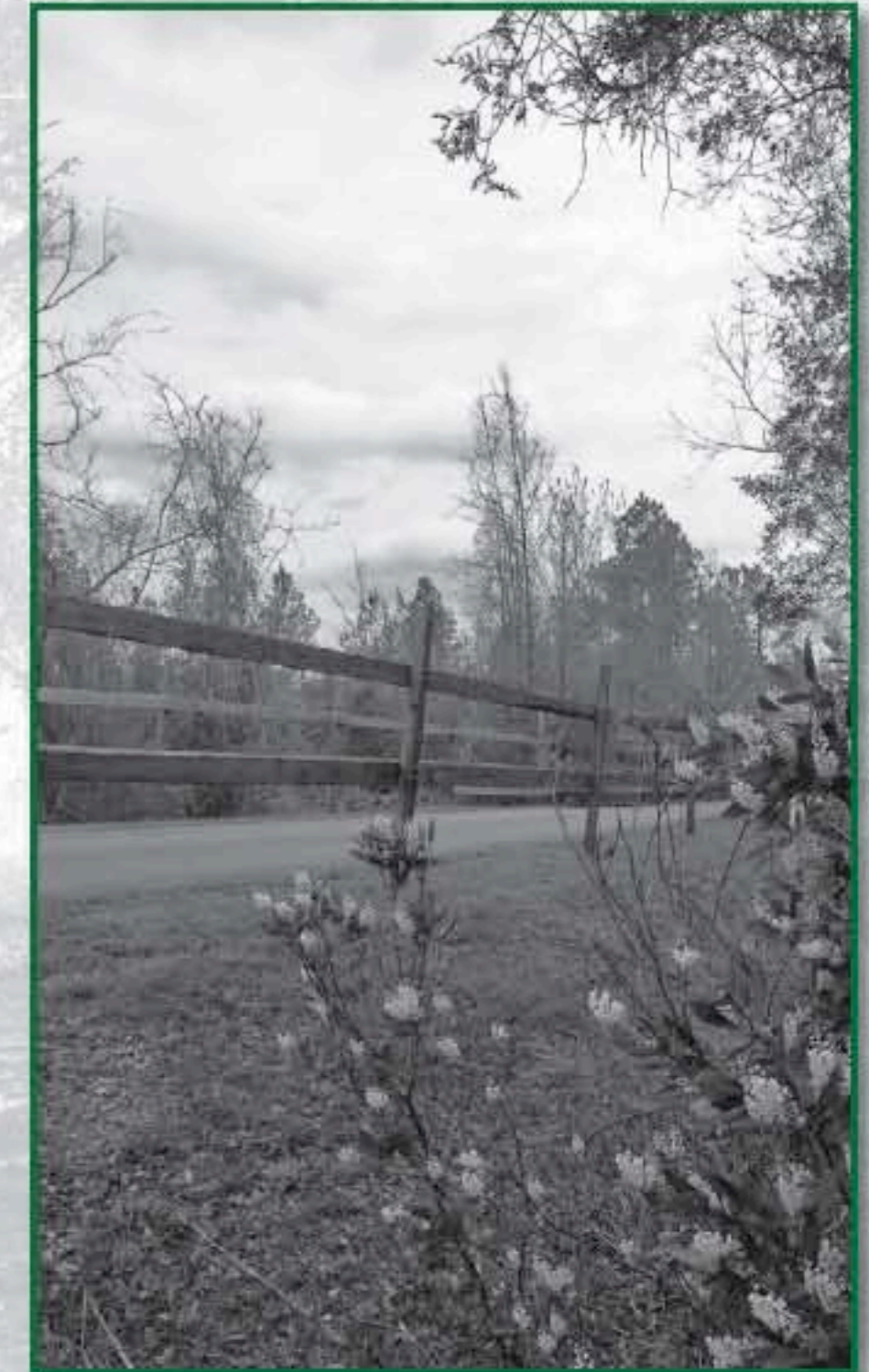
Office of Greenways & Trails
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GREENWAYS & TRAILS

FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com

Blackwater Heritage State Trail



Nine bridges cross creeks and streams on Florida's westernmost rail-trail

Blackwater Heritage State Trail

Major Activities: Walking, biking, in-line skating, rollerblading, horseback riding and bird watching

Trail Length/Surface:

Blackwater Heritage is 8.1 miles, non-motorized paved (asphalt 12' wide); the Military Heritage Trail is 1.5 miles, non-motorized paved trail (asphalt 9' wide); equestrian unpaved trail parallels a portion of the paved trail

Fee: None

County: Santa Rosa

Nearby Town: Milton

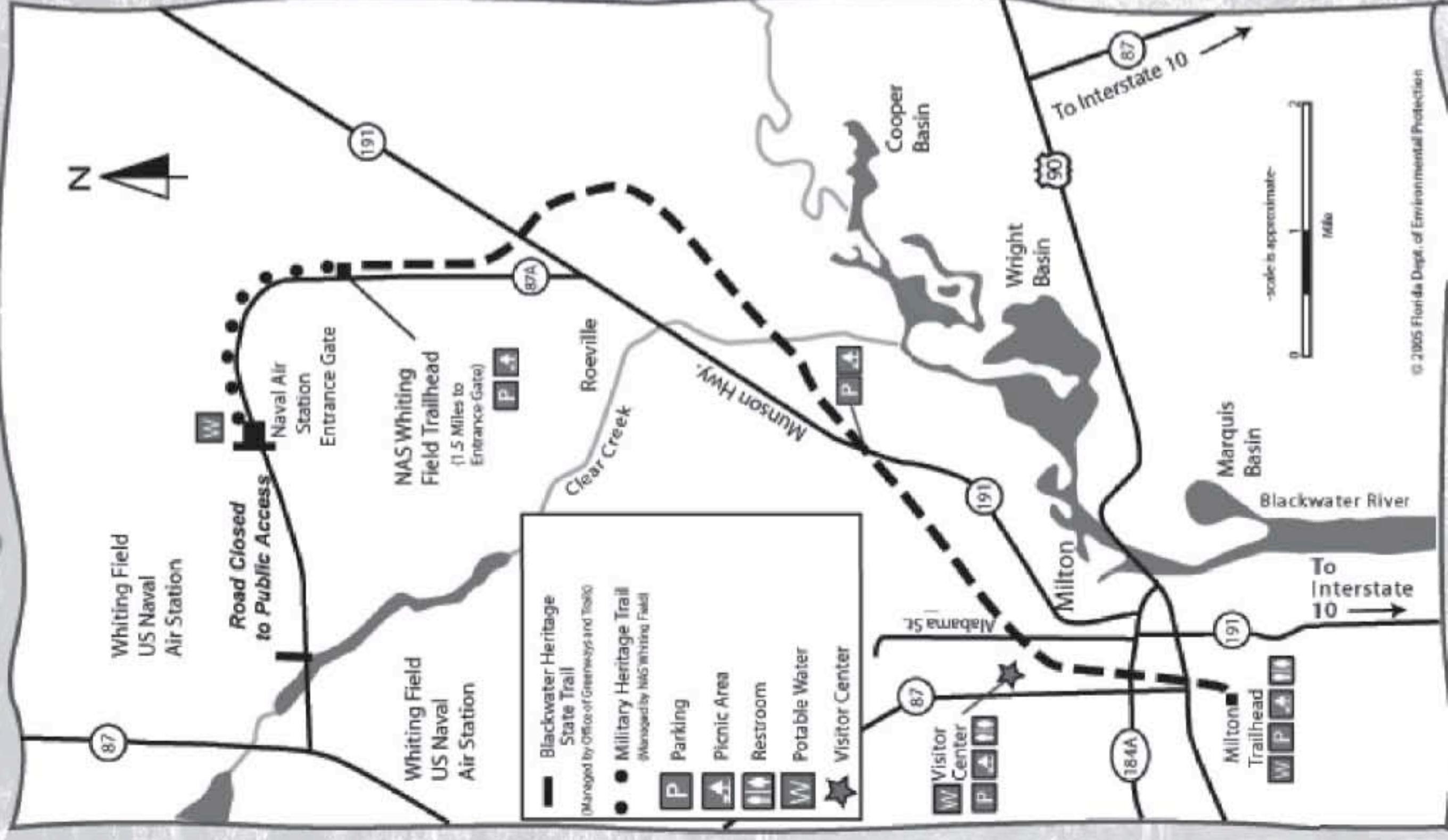
Notes:

The Milton Trailhead contains a covered picnic shelter, restrooms, a water fountain and a bicycle rack. The visitor center, approximately one mile from the trailhead, offers picnic tables and parking.

The Blackwater Heritage State Trail Citizen Support Organization operates a concession at the visitor center where snacks and souvenirs can be purchased. Benches have been located at various points along the trail for visitor convenience.

When traveling north of the visitor center, bring plenty of water because there are no facilities for potable water available.

Hours: 8:00 am – Sunset, 7 days a week, 365 days a year



Access/Directions:

Milton Trailhead: From I-10 West (coming from Crestview), take Exit 31 to SR 87. Follow SR 87 to the intersection at US 90. Take a left (heading west) on US 90. Follow US 90 into Milton to the intersection at SR 87. Trailhead is located at this intersection.

From I-10 East (coming from Pensacola), take Exit 26 to SR 191. Follow SR 191 through Bagdad into Milton and turn left on US 90. Trailhead is located at the intersection of US 90 and SR 87.

Munson Highway Parking Area: Follow directions above to Milton. In Milton, proceed to intersection of US 87 North and SR 191. Proceed north on SR 191 (Munson Highway) to intersection with trail and parking area.