

## Nature Coast State Trail

In the early 1900s, the railroad was replacing the steamship as the freight and passenger carrier of the Nature Coast. Trains hauled crops and timber throughout the Suwannee River Valley, making passenger stops in small towns such as Chiefland, Cross City and Trenton. Today, you can travel in the shadow of these early trains by retracing their historic route on the Nature Coast State Trail. The 31.7 miles of the Nature Coast State Trail connect three counties and five communities.

The Nature Coast State Trail, which crosses Dixie, Levy and Gilchrist counties, provides an excellent opportunity to experience the Sunshine State "off the beaten path." The trail consists of two primary alignments built along abandoned rail lines that intersect at Wilcox Junction, connecting the communities of Cross City, Trenton, Fanning Springs, Old Town and Chiefland.

Most of the trail parallels US 19 and State Road 26. Trailheads are located within the five linked rural communities, making the trail easily accessible for local use, in addition to being close to accommodations, restaurants, and other recreational opportunities. The Nature Coast State Trail provides a scenic experience for runners, walkers, bikers and in-line skaters. Equestrian riders can enjoy trails that parallel some portions of the paved trail and will eventually run parallel the entire length. Currently, parking for equestrians can be found at the Fanning Springs and Old Town trailheads.

Among the trail's highlights is a historic train trestle that allows trail users to cross over the Suwannee River near Old Town. The trail is also close to Fanning Springs State Park and Andrews Wildlife Management Area. Don't miss this trail, a highlight of the Nature Coast region.



## Trail Safety and Etiquette

- Bicyclists and in-line skaters yield to other users; pedestrians 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.

Local Contact Information:  
Nature Coast State Trail  
18020 N.W. Highway 19  
Fanning Springs, Florida 32693  
(352) 535-5181 or (352) 535-5581

Office of Greenways & Trails  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 245-2052  
Toll Free: (877) 822-5208



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
**GREENWAYS & TRAILS**

[FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com](http://FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com)

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Photo Credit: Lois Fletcher

...experience  
the Sunshine State  
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**Major Activities:** Walking, biking, in-line skating, horseback riding and bird watching

**Trail Length/Surface:** 31.7 miles paved

**Fee:** None

**Counties:** Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy

**Nearby Towns:** Chiefland, Trenton, Old Town, Cross City, Fanning Springs

**Notes:**

Chiefland Trailhead provides parking, restrooms and picnic areas.

Trenton Trailhead provides parking and restrooms.

Fanning Springs Trailhead provides parking.

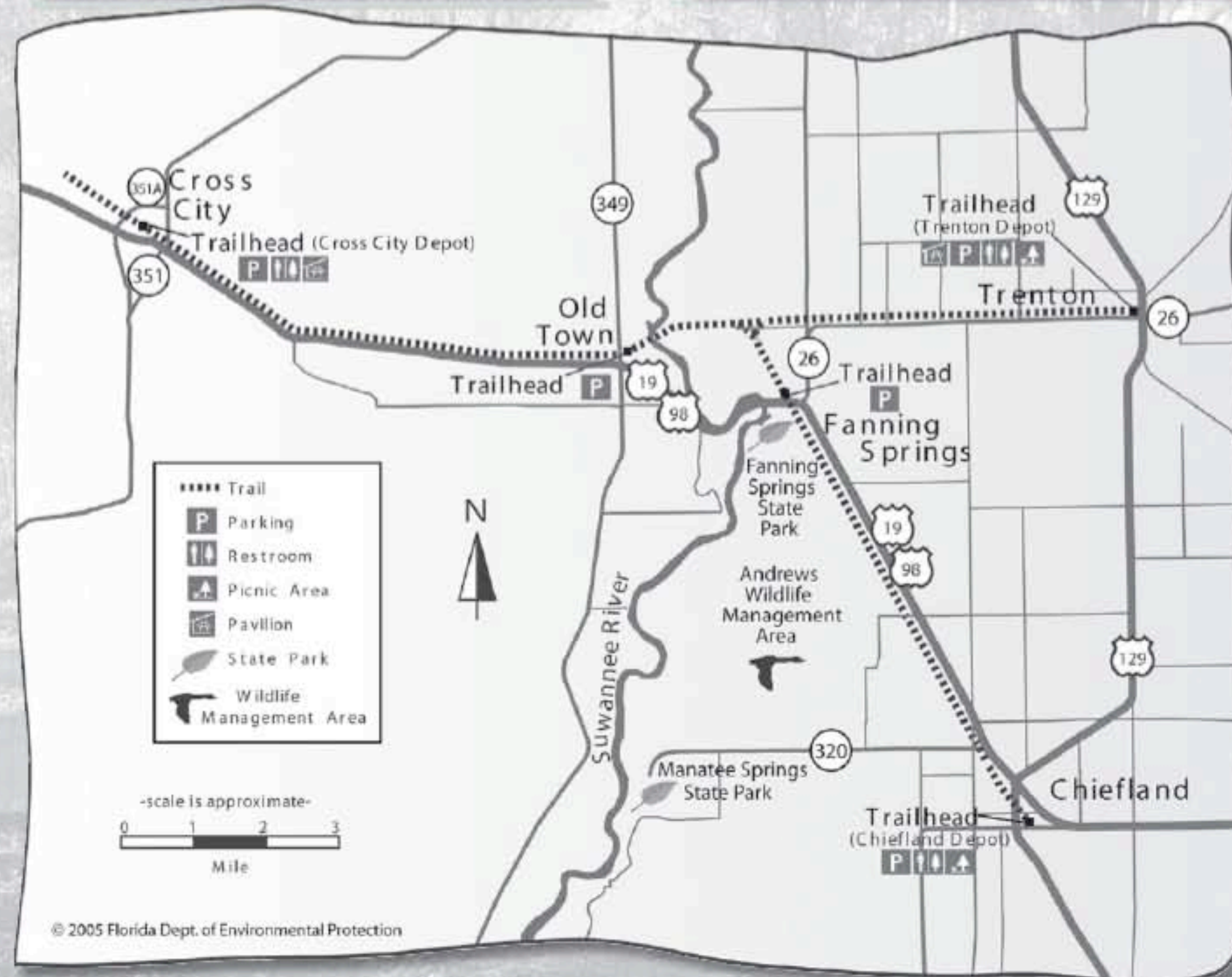
Old Town Trailhead provides parking.

Cross City Trailhead provides parking, restrooms and pavilion.

Equestrian trails parallel some portions of the paved trail and will eventually run its entire length. Currently, parking for equestrians can be found at the Fanning Springs and Old Town trailheads.

Contact the trail office for the most recent status of equestrian trails and facilities.

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



**Access/Directions:**

**Chiefland Trailhead**

From Fanning Springs, head south on US 19. Trailhead is located on the left at the Chiefland railroad depot, 2 blocks south of downtown Chiefland, on SE 2nd Ave.

**Trenton Trailhead**

From Fanning Springs, head east on State Road 26. In Trenton, head north (left) on Main Street (US 129). Proceed about 2 blocks to the Trenton railroad depot. The trailhead will be on the left. From Gainesville, head west on State Road 26. In Trenton, head north (right) on Main Street (US 129). Proceed about 2 blocks to the Trenton railroad depot. The trailhead will be on the left.

**Fanning Springs Trailhead**

From Chiefland, head north on US 19. In Fanning Springs, the trailhead is on the right, near the Agricultural Inspection Station.

**Old Town Trailhead**

From Fanning Springs, head north on US 19. Turn right on CR 349 in Old Town. The trail crosses the road 1 block after the first intersection. Take a right on the first road. The trailhead will be on the left, adjacent to the Old Town Fire Station.

**Cross City Trailhead**

From Old Town, head north on US 19. Pass through Cross City and turn right on NE 210th Ave. Take a left on NE 106th street. The road will cross the trail. The trailhead is located on the left at the Cross City Railroad depot.