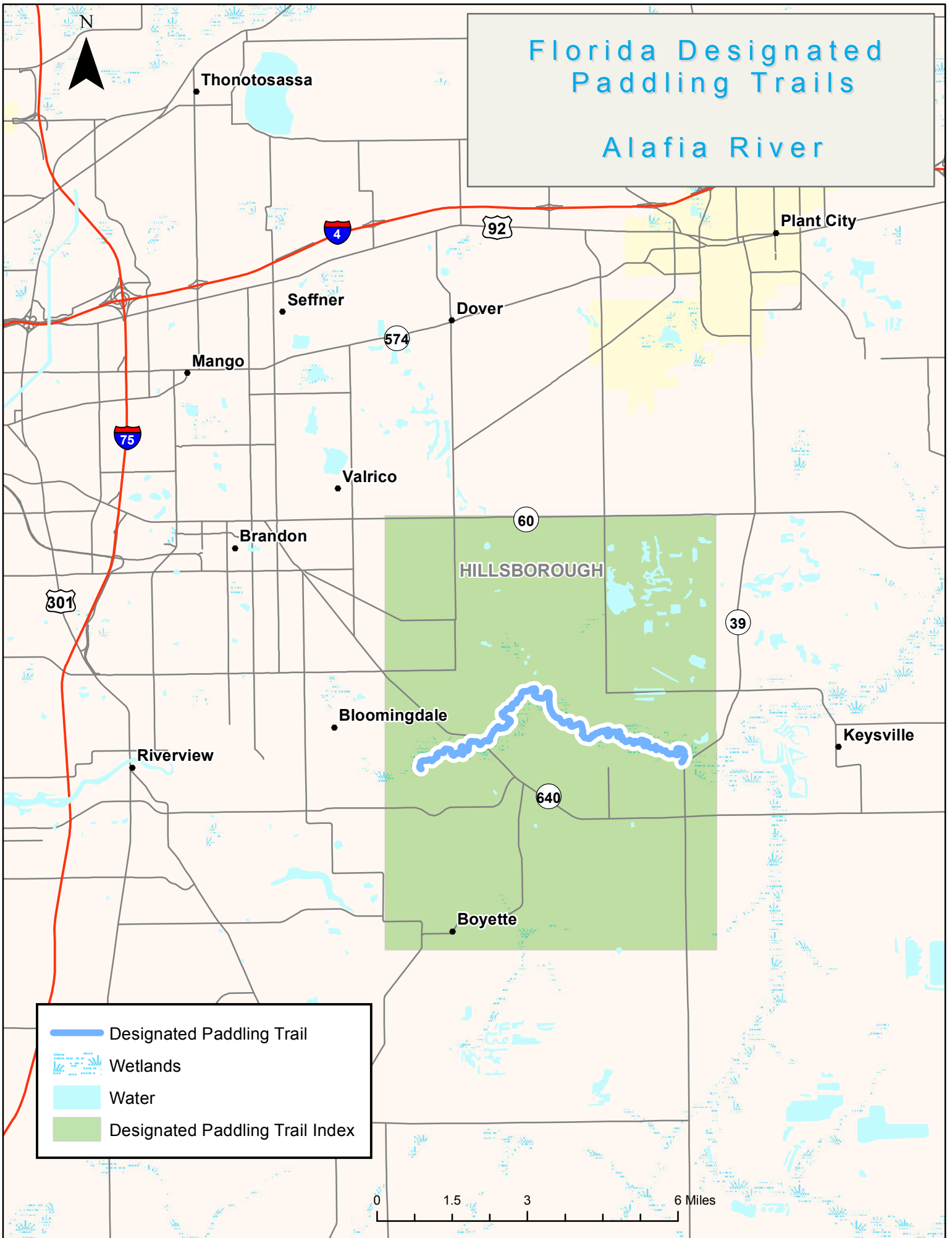


Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Alafia River



Florida Designated Paddling Trails

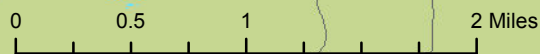
Alafia River



Access Point 2: Lithia Springs County Park
N: 27.8659 W: -82.1465

Access Point 1: Alderman's Ford County Park
N: 27.8663 W: -82.2313

- Alafia River Designated Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Restrooms
- Camping
- Potable Water
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands





Alafia River Paddling Trail Guide

The Waterway

Most of the Alafia River is bracketed by public conservation lands that protect habitat for all manner of wildlife. Ibis, wood stork, osprey, red-shouldered hawk, pileated woodpecker, kingfisher, blue heron, songbirds, alligators and turtles dwell here and may be seen by the quiet and observant visitor.

The Paddling Experience

This scenic 10-mile paddling trail provides the paddler a little excitement with occasional shoals and stretches of easy rapids (depending on water levels). When the water is high and the current becomes swift, the river is not recommended for beginners. Occasional downed trees may require portaging, depending on water levels. The river is generally navigable.

Access Points

#1, Start of the Trail, [Alderman's Ford Conservation Park](#)

This park was named after James Alderman who sloped the banks in this spot along the Alafia River in 1848 in order to create a ford for his wagons. Picnics became common at the site and beginning in 1902, Democratic Party candidates in Hillsborough County started their political campaigns here. This trend continued for more than 60 years. The park has camping, a nature center and canoe rentals. Launching at the park is a bit of a distance so consider bringing wheels. (No overnight parking unless camping). *Directions: From SR 60, turn south on to CR 39, then west onto Thompson Road. From CR 640, turn north on to CR 39, then west onto Thompson Road.*

#2, End of the Trail, mile 10. [Lithia Springs Conservation Park](#)

Paddlers are not allowed to paddle into the spring area; the boat launch is just downstream. Camping is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Park hours vary with the season. *Directions: Lithia Springs County Park is located one mile east of CR 640 on Lithia Springs Road.*

Outfitters and Shuttle Service

Alafia Canoe Rentals (813)-689-8645