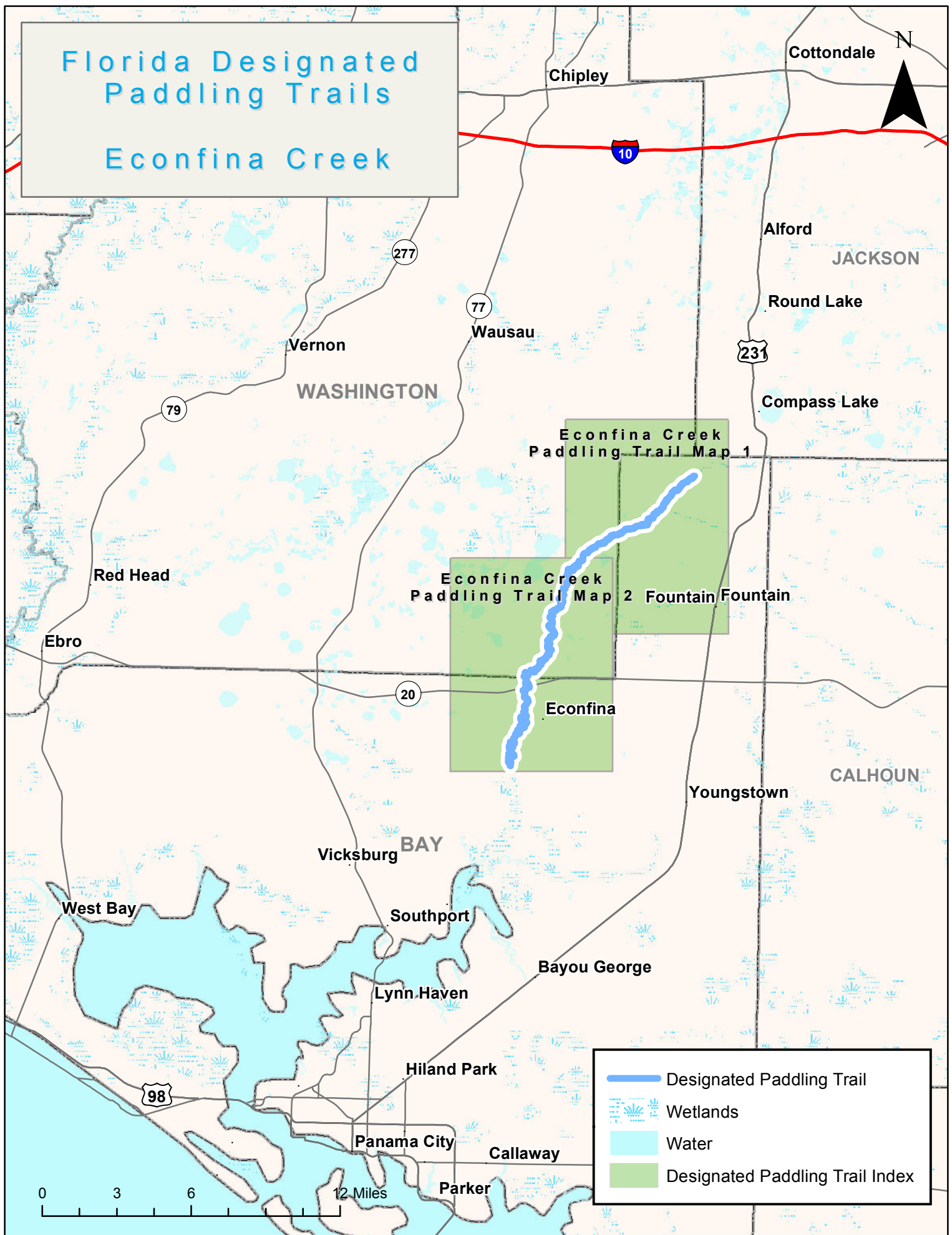


Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Econfina Creek



Econfina Creek Paddling Trail Map 1

N



Access Point 1: Scott Road Bridge
N: 30.5552 W: -85.4352



- Florida National Scenic Trail
- Econfina Creek Designated Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Econfina Creek Paddling Trail Map 2



Access Point 2: Walsingham Park
N: 30.4819 W: -85.5235

WHITE WATER LAKE RD

HAMPSHIRE BLVD

WALSINGHAM BRIDGE RD

WALSINGHAM BUS RD

GREENHEAD RD

Econfina Creek Water Management Area

SOUTH SILVER LAKE RD

PECAN SHADOWS DR

Access Point 3: Econfina Canoe Livery
N: 30.4401 W: -85.5444

WASHINGTON
BAY

Access Point 4: SR 20 Bridge Canoe Launch
N: 30.4329 W: -85.5458

STRICKLAND RD

BLUE SPRINGS RD

GAINER RD

Access Point 5: CR 388 Bridge
N: 30.3847 W: -85.5572

ENFINGER RD

CR 388

- Florida National Scenic Trail
- Econfina Creek
- Designated Paddling Trail
- Potable Water
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Restrooms
- Primitive Camping
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Econfina Creek Paddling Trail Guide

The Waterway

Econfina Creek is one of the most outstanding waterways in the state and is truly a wild experience, with few signs of human habitation and an abundance of wildlife and native vegetation. This swift-flowing waterway is a nature-lovers delight and the upper section offers a challenging adventure for experienced paddlers.

NOTE: River clearing after Hurricane Michael has been successful from Walsingham Bridge to County Road 388 Bridge, but there are still blockages north of Walsingham Bridge.

The Paddling Experience

Econfina Creek is ever-changing and the type of paddling experience on this 24-mile trail and degree of difficulty is dependent on widely fluctuating water levels. The upper 11 miles of the trail (between Scott's Bridge and Walsingham Park) is one of the most difficult stretches of river in the state and should be attempted by skilled paddlers only. It may take 8 -10 hours to paddle this stretch depending on degree of downed trees and water level. However, paddlers with beginning and intermediate skills will enjoy the popular spring-fed stretch of river beginning at the outfitters. While the creek conditions are ever-changing, the river is easiest to paddle when the gauge at Scott Road Bridge reads from 2 to 4 feet. The gauge is not online. After heavy rains, the river is too dangerous to paddle due to strong currents and log jams. Avoid paddling the river when water levels reach nine feet. The parking areas along the creek are remotely located and are not considered safe for overnight parking. For multi-day trips, the safest place to leave vehicles is at the Econfina Creek Canoe Livery and arrange for shuttling.

Access Points

#1, Start of the Trail, Scott Road Bridge,

Leaving a car overnight at this spot is not recommended; check with the local outfitter for shuttle options. *From US 231, turn west onto Scott Road (dirt), located 0.1 miles north of the intersection of US 231 and CR 167. Follow Scott Road 4 miles to the bridge.*

#2, Mile 11, Walsingham Park,

The [Northwest Florida Water Management District](#) offers primitive camping at this pleasant location, make a reservation [here](#). *From SR 20 turn north on Strickland Road (1/3 mile west of the SR 20 Bridge over Econfina Creek). Continue 2.6 miles on Strickland Road until it "T's" into another dirt road. Turn left onto Greenhead Road for 0.5 mile and then turn north onto Porter Pond Road. Continue about 1.8 miles to Hampshire Road. Turn right and continue almost 2 miles to Walsingham Bridge Road. Turn right on Walsingham Bridge Road and follow about 1.5 miles to a*



Econfina Creek Paddling Trail Guide

small metal bridge. Cross the bridge and follow signs a short distance to the park. From SR 20 to the park it is about 8.5 miles of dirt road driving that is best suited for 4-WD vehicles.

#3, Mile 16.5, Econfina Canoe Livery,

From SR 20, turn north onto Strickland Road (1/3 miles west of the SR 20 Bridge over Econfina Creek) and follow 1 mile to the outfitter (dirt road).

#4, Mile 18, State Road 20 Bridge,

A boardwalk leads about 100 yards to the paddle craft launch. Located about 7 miles from the intersection with US 231, the parking area is located on the northeast side of the bridge over Econfina Creek.

#5, Mile 24, End of the trail, County Road 388 Bridge, Parking overnight is not recommended here; check with local outfitter for shuttle options. From US 231, turn west onto CR 388 in Youngstown. Follow 8 miles to the bridge over Econfina Creek.

Outfitters and Shuttle Service

[Econfina Canoe Livery](#), 850-722-9032

Base Camp

[Northwest Florida Water Management District](#) manages a number of [camping and recreation opportunities](#) in the area and along Econfina Creek. Camping is free but you must make [reservations](#). The [Florida National Scenic Trail](#) winds along the banks of the Econfina Creek and provides an opportunity to combine a hiking and paddling adventure. This ten-mile stretch is viewed by many hikers as some of the most scenic miles in the entire state. This popular trail leads hikers through rugged ravines and tunnels of mountain laurel and wild azalea, for an experience similar to a walk in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, especially in spring when the flowers are in bloom. Much of the trail follows Econfina Creek through wooded areas of lush vegetation. The trail passes by a lovely 10-foot waterfall, and crosses many bridges, including two impressive 60-ft suspension bridges.

[Pitt and Sylvan Springs](#) are popular swimming areas in the Econfina Creek Water Management Area (WMA), on the west side of the Econfina, just north of SR 20. Pitt Spring is also a site on the [Great Florida Birding Trail](#). The water from Pitt Spring's 11-foot-deep spring vent emerges from beneath a submerged limestone ledge into a 40-foot diameter pool and then flows through a 50-foot run to the creek. The 10-acre recreation area, managed by the District, includes an extensive trail and boardwalk system. One trail and boardwalk system leads from Pitt Spring to the Sylvan Spring area, and includes an overlook and a tubing put-in dock. A tubing take-out dock has been



Econfina Creek Paddling Trail Guide



constructed at the confluence of Pitt Spring run and Econfina Creek.